WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 8, NO. 12 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | APRIL 1998

"If we cannot now end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." JFK

Olympia Cop Forced to Resign in Disgrace

Emma Hendrickson

On March 9th, Detective Fred Doughty of the Olympia Police Department (OPD) was forced to resign for neglecting his duties while carrying on a romantic relationship with an Olympia businesswoman during his working hours. According to The Olympian, Commander Steve Nelson stated that the woman wanted to end the relationship and that Doughty 'wouldn't leave her alone.' The woman had contacted the OPD in early 1997 and again this last February. There was a no-contact order placed against Doughty February 18th. Commenting on the situation, Commander Nelson said "It's a horrible thing because [Doughty] was a popular employee."

In the September 1995 issue of Works In Progress was a cover story describing the actions of Officer Fred Doughty and the OPD against Ken Dean, a former west side resident. Officer Doughty was accused by Ken Dean of violating his constitutional rights as well as violating police procedure as implicated by police and court documents. Soon after the incident, Officer Doughty was presented with the award of "police officer of the year" and promoted to Detective. Mr. Dean sued the Olympia Police Department and Officer Fred Doughty.

The following is the text of a telephone interview with Ken Dean, who now lives elsewhere.

What was your response to the news of Officer Doughty's forced resignation?

It really is kind of a refreshing feeling, after all that I had to go through with the Olympia Police Department, to see that they have finally stood up for what is right. I wasn't shocked. I did wonder how long it was going to take before they found out what kind of officer this guy was. It's really spooky that someone with a badge and a gun would go that far, stalking someone.

Does Doughty's leaving signal a change of how the OPD might operate in the future?

You would kind of hope that they would see what's going on down there and not just Officer Doughty. You have to have some drastic changes down there in upper management, too.

They did replace the police chief. . .

Right, but look at the damage that was caused by him [Wurner] sticking around. When you have chiefs and upper management like that, how do you expect officers to react when they feel they can just do whatever they want do and they have support for that. What can you expect?

You make a change with the chief, but you don't make change with the commander and the lieutenant who have also exhibited that type of behavior. After my experience with Officer Doughty, when Officer Doughty went into my home and took my property . . . Commander Nelson made the statement to the *Seattle Weekly* that no one had ever questioned Officer Doughty's credibility when he was quite aware I had 14 complaints against Officer Doughty.

What further changes need to occur in the OPD?

When you have people in other cities who consider the Olympia Police Department as the worst department in the state of Washington, we're talking about the capital here, that's not saying too much for the department. I understand they have a new chief and he has a lot of things to deal with, but if he deals with them or not, I don't know. I hope so.

So what kind of things does he need to do?

The first thing he needs to do is make the police public friendly. Everyone is not an enemy and not everyone of color is an enemy and gang member. Just because they are African-American and just happen to be in town and wearing a blue jacket doesn't necessarily mean anything. For instance in my case, because I am African-American, I feel that when I came in to complain about officer Doughty's actions, they just blew me off. But I noticed that when a white woman comes in and complains, then everybody is gung ho and ready to go.

Do you realize that it took her going in twice for anything to happen?

Well, I went in there, cheez, about twenty times. I glad that they stopped and listened to her, don't get me wrong. But all I met with was hostility. That also included the Mayor when I went to complain to the city council.

So it's going to include more than just the police department?

Of course, they work for the people and the people elect the council. They should take every complaint seriously.

You also have a new prosecutor there, too. When you have a prosecuting team that looks upon everything that Officer Doughty says as being gospel, then you are possibly destroying a lot of innocent lives. Granted there are people that are there because the public needs to be protected from them, but when I was running through that system, no one even listened, they just had their pre-arranged script and they excepted me to sign it and not complain. They didn't even understand why I was complaining.

For the OPD to become public friendly, they have a lot of work to do. They have got to start weeding out officers with unscrupulous characters. I'm not saying that all police officers are bad and I wouldn't say the majority of them are. And I would even be willing to say that most police officers do not appreciate the activities of these unscrupu-

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Commander Nelson made the statement to the* Seattle Weekly *that no one had ever questioned Officer Doughty's credibility when he was quite aware I had 14 complaints against Officer Doughty.

Action Needed to Stop Act III

Debbie Butler

Act III Cinemas, a Portland based chain theatre corporation is in the process of planning to construct a 12 screen, 69,500 square foot multiplex theatre on the corner of Kenyon St, and 4th Ave. in the Capital Mall area. Not only that, they also plan to pave a parking lot for 702 cars. Act III jumped its first big hurdle on March 12th when the Olympia Design Review Board voted unanimously to recommend Act III's architectural design for construction.

I happened to be one of about four people from the community to attend the March 12 Design Review Board meeting. I was surprised at such a low turnout, but quickly realized that if I hadn't been walking by the proposed site the day before, I never would have known about Act III's plans. Unfortunately, the only advertising of such building plans consists of a small notice at the proposed site and a mailed letter that is sent to people who reside within 300 ft. of the site. In this case that would be only one resident. Meaning only one person from the entire community was contacted by the City of Olympia about plans that will ultimately affect thousands more community members.

The meeting consisted of the Olympia Design Review Board, four representatives of Act III -- which included the architects -- and four community members, including myself. The Board and Act III proceeded with a meeting that included a brief review of the project, zoning requirements, and environmental issues (if known) - ironic, because apparently there won't be any environmental study at all. Then it came time for the public to address issues to the board. Issues addressed had to do with concerns with increased traffic and the wetland which is located on the most eastern part of the land. Act III and the Board responded by acknowledging that traffic issues needed some conditions and that biking and alternative modes of transportation will be encouraged; the wetland issues could not, of course, be answered, and we were told we could pursue that information on our own. (Thanks). Unbeknownst to me, the questions we the public were allowed to ask were limited to only issues surrounding the design. I took this opportunity to ask those questions that make corporate heads squirm in their corporate pants.

Although Act III is on the track towards construction there still are unanswered questions that should not be swept under the carpet. Some of the big issues are: (1) Environmental Responsibility - In a March 18 article, *The Olympian* stated that Act III does NOT have to perform an extensive environmental study. What about the wetland? This is corporate irresponsibility and shows that Act III does not really care about the land nor the resident

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Exploration of options - there are other options that will benefit the people of our community and the health of our environment and let Act III know that Olympia puts community need over corporate greed.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@olywa.net, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located in the Liberation Cafe.

Back Issues:

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Friday, April 17th

6pm at Liberation Cafe

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, April 21st
7 pm at Oly Timberland Library

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Letters & Briefs

US Imperialism is the Problem

Letter to the Editors:

I have to strongly disagree on certain aspects of the March WIP article penned by my friend, Jerome Johnson. The Era of American Empire is in decline - and has been ever since the historic victory of the Vietnamese liberation movement over U.S.-led forces — but it is not over.

That is partly because the U.S. remains the world's top military might and continues to see itself as the ultimate arbiter of *right and wrong* on the world scene which is anything but the truth.

The Clinton administration is cowtowing to the Pentagons recalcitrant Cold Warriors in the case of Iraq and should be condemned for it's cowardly role. But it is no "mistake" that Clinton & Co. has done so. The democrats, with Clinton at the helm, have moved way to the right since before his (2) elections and are not fundamentally different from the Republicans although they may sound different on certain issues (sometimes to the right!).

Even if the Clinton Administration were to develop a *real long range plan for dealing with Iraq* if would still likely be based on the utterly false pretenses that have guided faltering U.S. policies since the end of the Vietnam War - to regain the hegemony over the world market they lost!

Radicals, leftists and civil rights activists must not forget who the real enemy of the world peoples has been and continues to be. We don't need to waste our time or thoughts on *guiding* a refurbished U.S. (imperialist) foreign policy. I say let them make their own mistakes and then take full responsibility for them!

Personally, I'm for the defeat of ALL imperialism globally and that includes the misbegotten policies of *our* own bourgeois political lackeys at home, both Democrats and Republicans.

We (the U.S. ruling elites, political or economic) are still the bad guys in my book and we should work to defeat the big *We*, not attempt to guide them onto the right track which only makes them more entrenched and emboldened!

While it is true that other nations are learning that collectively they can challenge and resist American efforts in certain cases, the U.N. as a body, and particularly the U.N. Security Council, while no longer completely beholden to the U.S. economic might (or veto power), still largely represents the ruling elites from every country involved and, as such, tends to operates as a BLOCK TO TRUE FREEDOM, LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND JUSTICE FOR ALMOST ALL of the world's peoples.

The *long term solution to Iraq* for us in the U.S. is the defeat of our own bourgeoisie and the twin political parties that continues to perpetuate U.S. crimes against humanity, be they military, economic, political or otherwise.

In other words, the main enemy is at home! We should be for the defeat of U.S. aims against Iraq without fostering illusions in the *goodwill* of the U.N. which after all has upheld the U.S. inspired sanctions over the past seven years.

Our goal should be to end sanctions completely and to get the U. S. military forces completely out of Iraq and the middle east as a whole! Not to mention the rest of the world. Their is no ethically legitimate *need* for a permanent U.S. military presence ANYWHERE and never has been!

Iraq's *aggression* against the sheikdom of Kuwait in 1991 was NOTHING when compared to the U.S. aggression against Iraq that same year, to say nothing of the sanctions induced mass murder since!

As such, I am 100% in favor of the Iraqi government's *resistance* to U.S. policies against the Iraqi nation and people. Thus, to advocate (even in a worse case scenario) the building of a solid consensus in the US and the world community on military action is completely antithetical to ethical considerations in my view.

Even worse would be support to any U.S. or U.N. scheme to *remove* the Iraqi regime with military force. This would be similar (though not equivalent) to supporting *another Vietnam*. Would a U.S. puppet regime in

(Continued on page 19)

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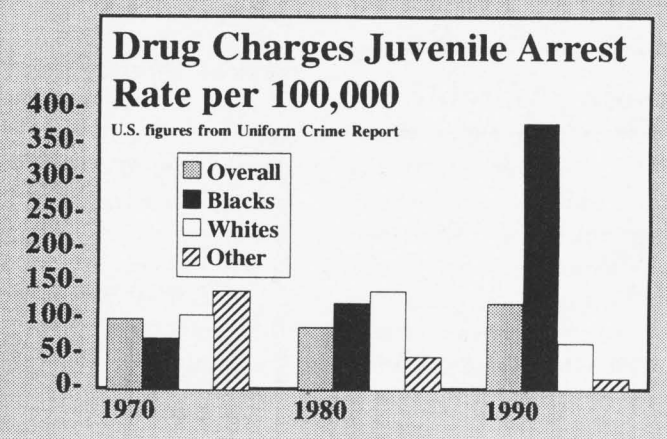
APRIL 1998

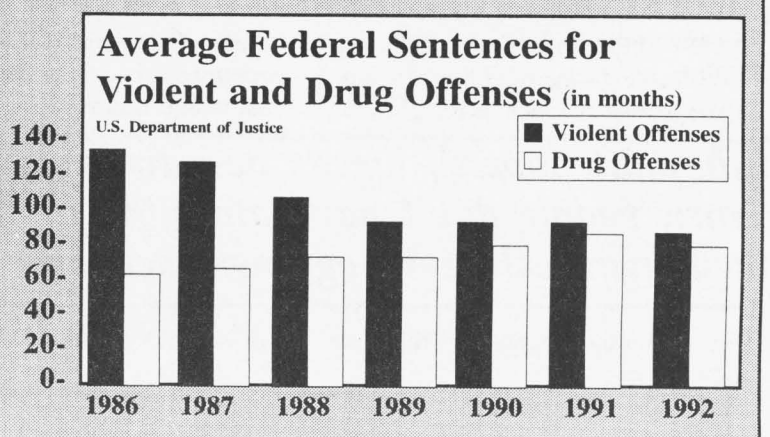
Truth or D.A.R.E.? The War on Drugs

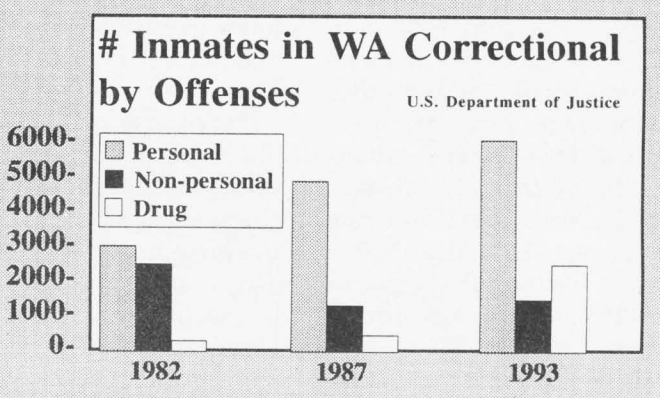
= Percent of first-time, non-violent drug offenders in federal prisons in 1993: 21.2
= Percent of federal inmates are there for drug offenses: 60
= Percent of those in 1980: 25

*****

= Percent of blacks that are drug abusers in U.S. population: 13
= Percent of drug arrests for possession are blacks: 35
= Percent of drug convictions are blacks: 55
= Percent of blacks serving drug-related prison sentences: 74



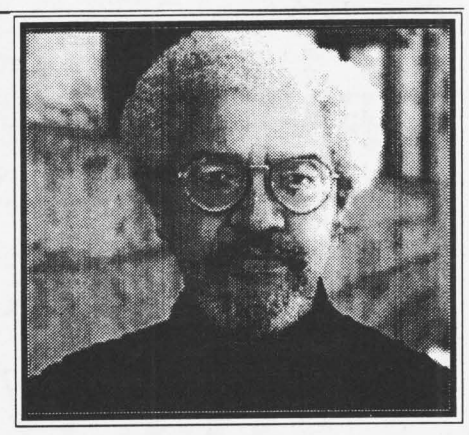




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest." **Maya Angelou**			**1** **1902**- Pennsylvania: 10,000 miners strike **1931**- Jackie Mitchell is 1st woman regular member on an "all-male" baseball team	**2** **1904**- 14 African-Americans lynched in race riots, in St. Charles, Arkansas **1913**- 300 Germans die of food poisoning	**3** **1995** - US Government announces it will cost $230-350 billion to clean up decades of nuclear weapons production	**4** **1996** - Sheriff Gary Edwards says county needs more beds in planned jail for people who should be jailed, but who aren't
5 **1914**- British suffragettes bomb London church **1951**- Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sentenced to death	**6** **1995** - 2 students were attacked at Olympia High by 2teens suffering from homophobia **1996** - Olympia's new Farmers Market opens	**7** **1915**- Billie Holliday is born **1919**- Belgium: 160,000 women sign petition demanding universal suffrage	**8** **1908**- Roosevelt requires equal rail accommodations for African-americans **1952**- Pres. Truman seizes steel industry	**9** **1866**- Civil Rights Bill for African-americans passes over Pres. Johnson's veto **1996** - Clinton signs line-item veto	**10** **1919**- Universal suffrage is established in Belgium **1996** - Clinton vetoes anti-late-term abortion bill	**11** *full moon* ● **1996** - Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission orders US West to reduce its rates
12 **1996** - Pacific Fisheries Management Council votes to keep ocean waters closed to salmon fishing to protect weak stocks	**13** **1873**- Colfax Massacre, 60 blacks killed **1995** - Sheriff Gary Edwards collides with suspect vehicle after a five-minute pursuit	**14** **1996** - Fourth day of Israeli's offensive against the Hezbollah in Lebanon. 28 people have been killed	**15** **1911**- U.S. troops cross Rio Grande **1919**- India: British troops kill 400 Indians demonstrating against British rule	**16** **1862**- Slavery illegal in Washington, DC **1906**- 4 strikers killed as 5,000 coal workers battle 100 police in Johnstown, Penn.	**17** **1995** - Supreme Court upholds anti-affirmative rulings by lower courts **1961**- Bay of Pigs fiasco	**18** **1995** - American Rivers list Columbia River system as an endangered river, and Elwha and Skokomish as threatened
19 **1996** - Israeli shells meant for Hezbollah guerrillas slam into a United Nations shelter for refugees in Lebanon killing 75	**20** **1996** - Chief Wurner begins sick leave recommended by his doctor. "I definitely plan to come back to work."	**21** **1962**- Century 21 Exposition in Seattle is opened to the public **1914**- 1,000 U S Marines seize Vera Cruz, Mexico	**22** **1915**- W.W. I Germany uses poison gas, chlorine.	**23** **1843**- Followers of "prophet" William Miller gather throughout United States to await his prediction world will end today	**24** **1933**- School teachers storm Chicago banks demanding 30 million in back pay. They hadn't been paid in 10 months	**25** **1918**- Ella Fitzgerald born **1959**- Mack Parker is lynched, Poplarville, Mississippi
26 **1944**- Feds takes over Montgomery Ward & Co after the management defied a ruling of the National Labor Relations Board	**27** **1902**- Rioting Russian peasants destroy 80 estates **1902**- Eight girls killed in panic at Philadelphia factory	**28** **1789**- Mutiny breaks out on the Bounty **1914**- President Wilson sends National Guard to Colorado to quell strike riots	**29** **1894**- Coxey's Army of Unemployed arrive in Washington, DC **1945**- American soldiers liberate Dachau Death Camp	**30** **1803**- Louisana Purchase: lands west of Mississippi for 4¢/acre **1906**- 20 striking miners shot by state troopers in Pennsylvania	**MARCH** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**MAY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Along the Color Line

South Africa After Apartheid



Dr. Manning Marable

Since the election of Nelson Mandela and the end of apartheid's dictatorship, South Africa has been projected as a model of racial reconciliation and peaceful change. President Mandela himself has become his nation's most effective and persuasive salesman, as even the most racist and reactionary Afrikaner former leaders praise his inclusive politics. Almost overnight, the country that once symbolized a citadel of white supremacy, now relishes its new liberal image under the slogan, the "rainbow nation."

From the vantage point of downtown Cape Town, South Africa does not look like a modern economic miracle. The business center looks like Baltimore, Seattle, or any other major metropolitan area. The new waterfront mall development has hundreds of exclusive shops and restaurants attracting over 200,000 tourists each year. A new black African professional class has rapidly begun to emerge in both governmental and corporate circles.

Yet for all the glitter and hype, there remain two vastly different South Africas, separated by an enormous chasm of racial and income inequality. At the top of society are the white upper and middle classes, who for centuries benefited directly from the enslavement and exploitation of the black masses. Whites comprise only 12 percent of South Africa's population, yet they still own the vast majority of the wealth—factories, banks, land, gold mines, and other resources. Six percent of the population earns more than 40 percent of the total income. The typical white managing director of a company earns a salary that is one hundred times that of the lowest paid workers, who are almost always black.

Rampant poverty breeds despair and violence. When people don't have anything to lose, they frequently turn against each other.

The "other" Cape Town is rarely shown on the tourist maps or guided tours. Outside the city, behind the magnificent Table Mountain, is Cape Flats, a barren, sandy plain that is the home of over one million black and brown people. In segregated, impoverished neighborhoods called Guguletu and Crossroads, Africans live in conditions of unbelievable poverty, hunger, and disease. I saw tens of thousands of shacks constructed largely with cardboard, plastic sheets and wooden boards, without toilets, running water, or electricity.

Poverty's greatest casualties are always children. According to a recent study by South Africa's Human Rights and Gender Equality Commission, about 87 percent of all African children are undernourished, with 38 percent of all poor children suffering from stunted growth. An estimated 200,000 children between the ages of ten to fourteen years are employed in the labor force.

Like Jim Crow schools in the U.S. southern states a generation ago, the South African school system has been a major factor in perpetuating racial inequality. Four years after apartheid was overthrown, six out of ten schools nationwide still do not have electricity. Student-teacher ratios are often more than sixty to one per classroom. Another recent study of South African education noted that 82 percent of all schools have no media equipment such as televisions, computers, or videocassette recorders, and 72 percent have no library. In many classes, sixty children have to read and learn from only one or two textbooks. Only one black African in 2,000 attends a college or a university, whereas the ratio for South African whites is only one in thirty. Because of this educational underdevelopment, it is not surprising that two thirds of all South Africans are functionally illiterate.

Rampant poverty breeds despair and violence. When people don't have anything to lose, they frequently turn against each other. The former apartheid regime understood this well, and it manipulated fear, poverty and old ethnic rivalries to divide and terrorize its nonwhite opponents. In the 1980s the apartheid government allowed millions of dollars worth of weapons and drugs into the country, saturating black neighborhoods. Even after Mandela's victory, the flow of narcotics and weapons has continued. Between 1994 and 1997, an estimated 200,000 firearms were stolen or lost in South Africa. In 1997 alone, nearly 20,000 convicted criminals were nevertheless granted licenses to own firearms.

As a result, the violence in the townships is nearly out of control, with one hundred or more young black men being murdered every week. In the black townships near Cape Town, tens of thousands of black and coloured boys, many of whom are fourteen, fifteen, and sixteen years old, belong to gangs. The level of violence has become more deadly with the introduction of machine guns and other high-powered automatic weapons.

On the first day I was in Cape Town, the waterfront mall was a scene of a wild gun battle between security guards and two suspected shoplifters. Tourists scrambled to get out of the way of gunfire, and one black security guard was seriously wounded. Violence has now become such a "normal" part of daily life that Cape Town's central business district is virtually vacant after dark. Private security companies are the country's fastest growing enterprise.

Today's street violence and gang murders in the segregated townships are a by-product of a powerful and corrupt, centuries-old system of white rule. The day-to-day violence of inferior schools, substandard shelter, malnutrition, and poor health care is the root cause of South Africa's crisis of crime. Until and unless millions of black Africans acquire the basic prerequisites for a decent life, the post-apartheid future will descend into an abyss of deadly violence.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University, New York City.

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Once Again, That Thing... Racism

Jerome Johnson

One of the most stressful things about coping with racism is that you can never predict when, where, or from whom it will reach out and jab you directly, when you don't expect it. You never know just how it will strike. Like many people of color, I wonder what I'll have to deal with every day. Will it be the routine stuff in the media, an overheard comment at the store, or a direct slur from a stranger? Will I have to deal with racist violence today, and if I do, will I come out of it okay? What if I have to seriously hurt someone, even in self-defense?

And like many people of color all across the U.S., I rinse my teeth, put on my jacket, and face the day with psycho-emotional defenses on automatic. I walk out the door, followed by my roommate's unspoken prayer for my safe return. Where most worry about car accidents and job hassles, she worries about racist violence.

Last Tuesday was a day like any other until just before lunch. I was in the office doing paperwork when one of my co-workers came in. He's an older white man, highly educated, religious, an okay guy. We've worked well together for years and respect each other. He outranks me at work, but knows I'm at my best when he leaves me alone so I can do my job. And since everyone at my job knows I'm a civil rights worker, we often discuss current events, including race.

Well, he came in and filed some paper, just like normal. Then he leaned on the file cabinet and changed my week. He said, "Jerome, can I run something by you?"

"Sure."

"Well, I know how close the black community was during Jim Crow. I just wonder if that was because of sex."

It was like being jabbed in the gut with an ice club. I couldn't reply right away. I took a deep breath, then another, and turned around in my chair. I made sure my voice was steady and my gaze firm when I looked him in the eye and said, "I'd say that was totally racist."

He looked at me. *Be cool*, I told myself, *astonishing as it is he really doesn't know and is trying to learn. If you don't teach him, who will? Especially since a lot of folks would have lost it at this point.*

Another deep breath. "Not only is it completely racist, but it's also untrue and feeds the myths of black hedonism. It's part of the racist myth that black men are insatiable sex machines, and black women are exotic and promiscuous without a care for birth control. In fact, it was the black church that was the solid anchor of the black community in the Jim Crow era. This was true in the countryside as well as the cities, and the country blacks were even more straitlaced. The church was more than a place of worship; it was

In fact, it was the black church that was the solid anchor of the black community in the Jim Crow era.

the center of the community. It was meeting hall, youth center, school, a place for social gatherings. That's why black churches—much more than homes and businesses—were firebombed during the '50s and '60s.

"Would you say that sex held the *white* community together?"

He reddened. He understood. "No...and you're right. I mean...well, that's good."

The phone rang then, and I had to answer it. The day went on, and the week. My co-worker and I still get along fine. He doesn't consider himself a racist; he abhors bigotry. But like many well-meaning whites, especially of his background, he's been poisoned by racism and is only now recovering. I don't condemn him—I salute him. Unlike too many whites, he asks questions, *listens to answers*, genuinely wants things to be better, and isn't afraid of having his preconceptions hurt in the process. He even votes.

I was having a beer with a good friend of mine, a veteran civil rights worker, white. He's retired now, and like many veterans of the '40s-'80s, he's bitter and disappointed. "We had so much to do, and we worked so hard," he said when I told him about my co-worker. "For years. We risked our lives, and too many lost. And for what? For poor people, things are worse than ever. Clinton hasn't done a damned thing. Take my advice. Stop trying to save the world, and take care of yourself. Keep your job, go to school, take care of you and your family. If we're really going to solve this mess we need to stop focusing on race, and focus on class. Helping poor people will take care of race issues. Forget about saving the world, it's a waste of time."

I took a deep breath.

"I can't do that," I said. "I know where you're coming from, but we must fight poverty and disease and racism simultaneously. It's a multi-front war. We know that racists come in all incomes.

"I can't quit because in my own small way, I've got to do something. I've made a lifetime commitment to fighting racism and bigotry. I wish I could quit my job so I could do it full time and get paid. It'll NEVER be a waste of time. For those of you who say it is," and my voice tightened, "I can only say that's because you will never feel that clench in your gut when someone calls you a nigger, usually with violent intentions. You don't have to deal with racism every single day, all your life. You don't have to hesitate to have children, because you're afraid racism might kill them no matter how well you prepare them. You dread having to teach them all the little tricks ("Always call them sir and ma'am, ALWAYS") that will increase their chances of survival, of having to explain why they have to work to be twice as good to go half as far. And you don't feel that knot in your throat every time you see a Confederate flag, because when its owner sees you he sees another white person and that's it. When he sees me, both of us know what he's thinking."

In Ghana, Clinton is mobbed by crowds of well-wishers.

In Washington D.C., African ambassadors use Clinton's trip to educate Americans about modern Africa and its people.

In Seattle, a score of African-American employees have filed a class action lawsuit against Boeing, alleging discrimination and racism in the workplace.

And in Olympia, a cautious Legislature does the right thing in sending I-200 to the November ballot.

Driving While 'Black' Examined

ACLU

SAN DIEGO — James Phelps doesn't like to drive late at night. He avoids neighborhoods where police patrol often. When on the highway, he keeps his speed in check with cruise control.

In a front-page story, the San Diego Union Tribune explains that Phelp's behavior is because he is black. And he feels there's a good chance he will be pulled over if conditions are right.

His African-American friends have been stopped. Once, on a cross-country trip, his wife and even his mother were pulled over. "It's a way of life," the La Mesa electrical engineer told the Tribune. "You get used to it."

"An increasing number of people are being stopped without true cause," Crew said. And most of those people, he added, are minorities.

Being stopped by police for little apparent reason is a common complaint among people of color. They get pulled over more frequently than whites, they say, and a number of surveys and newspaper investigations bear this out.

They call it "driving while black," and it is to the point where the complaints seem like routine news now. It keeps happening, the newspaper says.

It happened in October to San Diego Chargers football player Shawn Lee when he and his girlfriend were handcuffed and detained by police for a half-hour by the side of Interstate 15 near Qualcomm Stadium.

Authorities said Lee was pulled over because he was driving a vehicle that matched the description of one stolen earlier that evening. Lee was driving a Chrysler Jeep Cherokee, a sport utility vehicle. The missing car was a Honda sedan.

Critics are quick to attack these embarrassing episodes as examples of racism in police departments. Better protection of citizens' rights, particularly those of minorities, is necessary, they say. And while the Tribune says little research has been done on the issue, limited studies have backed up the critics' concerns.

The situation, some fear, is not improving, even in the wake of such tragic episodes as the 1995 death of Jon Gammage, the cousin of former Pittsburgh Steeler Ray Seals. He was pinned down and suffocated by white officers in suburban Pittsburgh after a routine traffic stop.

"It's permissive and there's no retribution," John Johnson, president and CEO of the San Diego Urban League, said of police stops of minorities. "If you fit the profile, they pull you over."

Instead of taking steps to prevent the problem, police departments remain in denial about it, contends John Crew of the American Civil Liberties Union in Northern California.

"There's been a shocking lack of commitment to this problem," Crew told the Tribune.

People of color, especially young blacks and Latinos, feel they face the brunt of the abuse. In a 1995 survey of the San Diego Police Department in which the department overall scored well, four out of 10 blacks questioned said they had been treated unfairly by police.

A 1996 Supreme Court decision has given police greater powers in this arena, Crew told the newspaper. The court ruled that police could pull over motorists for minor traffic infractions, even if the officer's true motive was to look for more serious offenses.

The ruling has led to abuse, and police now pull over motorists for the most obscure reasons, such as making an illegal lane change, Crew said.

Young blacks and other minorities suffer the most, simply because they meet the profile of what many police officers believe to be criminals. Using race as a reason to pull someone over is illegal, but it's hard to prove an officer's motives, Crew said. The officer can simply claim a violation was spotted.

"An increasing number of people are being stopped without true cause," Crew said. And most of those people, he added, are minorities.

Despite what many feel is a common occurrence, little official research has been done on this subject. The National Institute for Justice has never looked into it, officials say.

Yet the few studies conducted, the Tribune said, showed alarming results.

A survey done by the Maryland State Police, performed as part of a settlement to an ACLU civil rights lawsuit, showed that blacks were much more likely to be pulled over than anyone. Seventy-three percent of the motorists stopped along Interstate 95 between Baltimore and Delaware during the survey were black.

The lawsuit was prompted after police pulled over an African-American man who turned out not to be a criminal, but a Harvard-educated lawyer, Crew said.

Over the years, police departments throughout the nation have pulled over a host of African-American celebrities and professionals, he said. Actors Wesley Snipes and Blair Underwood and athletes such as Joe Morgan and Al Joyner have been detained.

Crew considers the problem critical, contending a whole segment of society is losing faith in law enforcement.

"The most powerful weapon police have to fight crime is community trust," he said. "If a group is treated unfairly, that trust will be destroyed."

Source: San Diego Union Tribune, December 13, 1997. Copyright 1997, The American Civil Liberties Union

RAMP's Second Public Screening Brings Anti-Choicers Out of the Woodwork

WIP News Service

On Saturday, March 7, the Radical Alternative Media Project sponsored its second public screening at the Olympia Timberland library. The film screened was *The Fragile Promise of Choice: Abortion in the U.S. Today*, the third in a video trilogy directed by Dorothy Fadiman. Despite at least two mentions of the event in the Daily 0, and numerous flyers and press releases, there was a decidedly low turnout of people for the event, which was also billed as an opportunity to discuss ways to show appreciation to clinic providers locally in honor of "Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers" the following week.

However low the turnout overall, the screening was attended by none other than Ruth Tabor, a leading anti-choice voice locally. She was accompanied by two other anti-choice women. Ironically, this particular video of the trilogy examined how inequality of access to abortion, a shortage of providers, and harassment of doctors and patients are currently affecting women's health and their lives. Some of the means of harassment detailed in the video were examples of harassment local clinics, clinic workers, and patients have been subject to in their ongoing struggle to secure and assert their freedom of choice. The video was shown without provocation, and after the viewing, a discussion ensued. While the conversation, which evolved into a debate between the three anti-choicers and four to six pro-choicers present, was a civil one, the anti-choicers used rhetoric common to their movement, as well as fundamentalist Christian principles to exemplify their opinions. Despite their comments, the pro-choice people present took the video screening as an opportunity to not only discuss the past and current harassment endured by women and clinic providers, but also to sign cards in appreciation of local clinic providers that were delivered Tuesday, March 10th. This date marked the fifth anniversary of the murder of Dr. David Gunn. Dr. Gunn performed abortions at several Pensacola, Florida, clinics and was shot to death by anti-choice leader Michael Griffin. Refuse & Resist, the abortion rights organization based in New York City, suggested actions that might call attention to the fact that "without providers, there is no 'choice.'"

It was in honor of International Women's Day and Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers that RAMP chose to screen such a powerful and telling video. RAMP would like to thank the people present, with a special thank-you to Ruth Tabor, who is currently editing a video made by anti-choicers of last year's Operation Rescue terrorism of the Sound Choice clinic in Olympia. Thanks for reminding us why we are pro-choice, Ruth!

RAMP is currently airing the first and second videos of the trilogy, entitled **When Abortion Was Illegal: Untold Stories** and **From Danger to Dignity: The Fight for Safe Abortion**, on TCTV Channel 3. Look for the last video, **The Fragile Promise of Choice: Abortion in the U.S. Today**, in upcoming months.

Other RAMP program titles to look for in April and May on TCTV:

Critical Mass In Olympia documents the harassment of bicycle activists by Olympia police.

Redefining Liberation: How Advertising Affects Your Health illustrates the advertising industry's assault on women and girls' self-esteem.

There's No Such Thing as Women's Work discusses the historic and current role of the Women's Bureau in documenting and addressing issues and concerns of women workers.

The Role of Whites In Supporting Affirmative Action is a lecture given in Olympia by anti-racist activist Tim Wise.

TV Turn Off Week focuses on the power of television on our culture and asks you to not watch TV for the week of April 22nd through 29th.

RAMP may be reached at 360/705-2726. Get involved and help bring videos like the ones above to your television screen and beyond.

Get involved with RAMP and help bring videos like the ones above to your television screen and beyond.

CITIZEN RIGHTS

A request for public records can be initiated in person, by mail or fax, or over the telephone. You may be able to obtain the addresses and telephone numbers of state agencies in current telephone directories, or the telephone number of an agency by calling the Olympia area information operator at (360) 555\1212. Each state and local agency is required to provide assistance to citizens in obtaining public records and to explain how the agency's public records process works. If you request certain public records, the agency must make them available to you for inspection and copying during customary office hours of that agency. You should make your request as specific as you can. A written request helps to identify specific records you wish to inspect. Many agencies have a public records request form they will ask you to use.

After your inspection of records, you may identify those records you desire and, if copying does not disrupt agency operations, copies promptly can be made for you. The agency may enact reasonable rules to protect records from damage or disorganization and to prevent disruption of agency operations during inspection or copying.

Each state or local agency is required to establish an index as an aid to locating public records. The index is to be published and made available to those who request it.

Agencies are required to respond promptly to your request. Within five business days after receiving a request, the agency must either:

1. provide the record(s);

2. acknowledge your request and give you a reasonable estimate of how long it will take to respond;

3. deny the request in writing, with reasons for the denial (this could also include a denial of part of your request and a granting of the remainder). The agency must tell you the specific exemption or other law it relies upon for its denial.

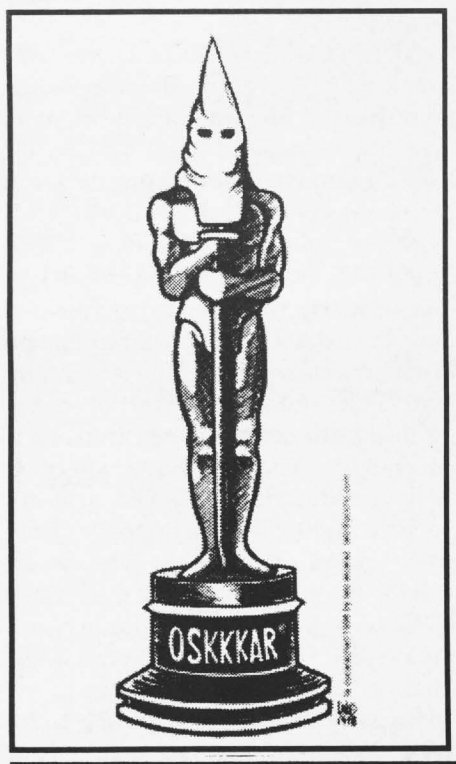
If a request is not clear, the agency may ask you for further clarification.

If an agency denies your request, it must conduct an internal review of its denial within two business days after denial. At that time, the agency's denial is considered final. In the event of denial, your options are described elsewhere in the pamphlet.

The agency may notify persons to whom the record pertains that release of the record has been requested.

The agency, or a person to whom the record applies, may ask a superior court to prevent an inspection of the record. However, before preventing inspection, the court must find the examination would not be in the public interest and would damage a person or a vital governmental operation.

There is no fee for inspecting public records, but the agency may charge a fee for the actual costs of copying the records. It may cost more to have copies "certified."



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International Women's Day Statement From Assata Shakur

March 8, 1998
Greetings of love and peace to my sisters,

It is a pleasure to be able to send greetings to you on this day, and even though I can't be with you physically, please know that my mind and my heart and my spirit are there with you. I feel comforted knowing you are celebrating this day, along with so many women around the world. It is important that we as women begin to struggle on a worldwide basis, and that we make our struggle for liberation an international struggle. As the situation around the world becomes more critical, the situation of women becomes alarming. Women have historically suffered oppression and economic exploitation, but now we are suffering increasing violence, sexual abuse, poverty and marginalization. According to the United Nations, of the 1 billion 300 million extremely poor people on this planet, 70% are women.

Under imperialism, the few traditional safeguards that in some ways helped to protect women against the most flagrant forms of oppression are being destroyed. More and more women around the world are seen as sexual objects, and are being victimized by sexual abuse and by child prostitution. More and more, our communities are being flooded with drugs, and more and more women are being forced or encouraged to participate in drug and alcohol abuse to escape from their misery - particularly women of color.

In the United States there is a vicious media campaign against women of color, depicting us as prostitutes, drug addicts or welfare queens. Since 1979, the year of my liberation, the population of women in prison has more than tripled. Most of those women are women of color. Most of those women are mothers. With few exceptions, all of those women are poor. The consequences of the United States government's repressive policies that have had a devastating effect on our communities and on our families. Our lives are controlled by hostile institutions. Our children are placed under the care of hostile, racist institutions that deny them their basic humanity. As human beings, as women, we must demand that the institutions that control our lives are responsive to our needs, to our aspirations, and to our social reality. We as women have the right to develop our skills, our intellect and our abilities. We as women have the right to demand that our children are able to develop in all areas of human endeavor. Under the current policies of the U.S. government, our children are being denied basic health care, child care, quality education and other human necessities.

Increasingly, as women fight for themselves, for their rights, and for their families, women are being subjected to political repression. And although womens' contributions to political struggles and political activism are seldom recognized, women have been on the front-line of all struggles for social justice. Many of the political prisoners who are currently in United States' prisons today are women. They represent the African-American liberation movement, the Puerto Rican independence movement, the movement for the liberation of Native American nations, as well as white anti-imperialists who support those movements for liberation and who oppose the U.S. government's foreign and domestic policy.

To fight for our liberation and the liberation of women political prisoners is to fight for our basic survival. We can and we must win that struggle, and we must win that struggle with love, with dignity and with determination.

I want to salute those of you who are women political prisoners. You are my sisters. You are my heroines. And you are an inspiration not only to me, but to so many people who struggle. I know what you are up against. I know what you have suffered. I know how strong you have been in the face of so much adversity. To demand your freedom is to demand very little. As sisters, as women, as women who are committed to justice, we should and we must mobilize for your immediate release. That is the very least we can do.

We cannot allow ourselves and our sisters to be prisoners of patriarchal policies, and we cannot allow ourselves and our sisters to be victimized by political priorities that negate the needs of women, that negate the humanity of women, and that negate our importance as human beings. To fight for our liberation and the liberation of women political prisoners is to fight for our basic survival. We can and we must win that struggle, and we must win that struggle with love, with dignity and with determination.

So on this day I pay homage to you my sisters, and I know that you will carry on our struggle to make this planet a place that is livable and free of sexism, oppression, capitalist exploitation and the degradation of human beings.

Happy Womens' Day, My Sisters,
On The Move,
Assata Shakur, ex-political prisoner living in exile in Havana, Cuba

Irrepressible Feminist Clara Fraser: 1923-1998

Anne Butler

Clara Fraser, author, labor and civil rights agitator and a leader of the women's movement died February 24 of emphysema.

Fraser is best known as the woman who beat Seattle City Light in a 7-year-long sex and political ideology discrimination case. The utility fired her in retaliation for her leading role in a massive 11-day wildcat strike and her defense of a first-of-its-kind program she designed to bring women into the electrical trades.

Fraser reshaped U.S. politics through her pioneering work connecting feminism, socialism, ethnic, lesbian/gay and labor struggles. Long before diversity and cultural sensitivity were catch words, Fraser advocated the interconnected nature of various forms of oppression and the pivotal leadership role of women of color in all the social movements. She co-authored *Revolutionary Integration*, a groundbreaking analysis of the Black freedom struggle.

Raised in East Los Angeles by Jewish immigrant parents, she studied literature and education at UCLA. She worked briefly as a screenwriter, then joined the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). In 1946, Fraser moved to Seattle to help build its branch here. A leader in the 1948 Boeing strike, she pressured the union to represent women and minorities. When the strike was broken, Fraser was blacklisted and hounded from job to job by the FBI.

In 1965, Fraser helped lead the Seattle branch of SWP in an exodus from the national organization, founding the Freedom Socialist Party. In 1967, she and her friend Gloria Martin cofounded Radical Women to teach a new generation of young women leadership skills, theoretical know-how and workingclass consciousness.

For three decades, she shepherded Radical Women and the party as they grew from small, local groups into international organizations with affiliates in Australia and Canada. Among her many other achievements, she helped write Washington state's first divorce-reform bill, led the state's first abortion rights rally, fought on behalf of tribal fishing rights, protested apartheid in South Africa, campaigned for childcare and defended the Black Panther Party.

A popularizer of socialist ideas, Fraser wrote a regular column for the *Freedom Socialist* newspaper. These witty, analytical and optimistic columns, along with numerous never-before-published speeches, are collected in her recently released new book *Revolution, She Wrote*. A book launching celebration, with friends and colleagues reading Fraser's writings, will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 pm at Elliot Bay Bookstore, 101 South Main Street in Seattle.

Politically active to her final day, Fraser died peacefully at home after a long struggle with emphysema. She is survived by her sons, Marc Krasnowsky and Jon Fraser, daughter-in-law Moira Ferguson, sister and brother-in-law Flory and Bennie Adler, three grandchildren, four nieces and nephews, their spouses and children.

Remembrances may be sent to Red Letter Press for the Clara Fraser Memorial Publications Fund at the Bush Asia Building, 409 Maynard Ave. S., #201, Seattle, WA 98104. For more information call 206/722-2453 or 206/722-6057.

A book launching celebration, with friends and colleagues reading Fraser's writings, will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 pm at Elliot Bay Bookstore, 101 South Main Street in Seattle.

Works In Progress seeks contributors

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Resumes or journalism writing skills are not required. It is recommended that an article be written in the contributor's own voice from her/his perspective. *Works In Progress* challenges the validity of the widely accepted concept of "unbiased journalism."

IWW-Libros Sin Fronteras Talks Stalled

Joe Hill

After six months of contract negotiations with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies), the owner of Libros Sin Fronteras has dug in his heels and is refusing to budge from his initial offer. The Olympia-based Spanish book distributor's "best" offer differs little from the personnel policy he rammed down workers' throats last summer. The unilateral imposition of that policy in June of 1997 effectively ended what had been a productive series of informal staff meetings about the personnel document, and led directly to the organizing drive that ultimately resulted in a five-to-two election victory for the Wobblies in September.

We may be a small scruffy union with radical beliefs, but we sure managed to get the boss' attention and make him take us seriously.

The company's current intransigence is consistent with the "human resource" management style that inspired workers to organize at the downtown warehouse in the first place. Unfortunately, the unionists who organized the shop last summer have all, for various personal reasons, left the company's employ. The IWW thus finds itself in the untenable position of negotiating a contract on behalf of employees who currently show little interest in the process. Unfamiliar with the issues that gave birth to the union, and working as they do in an atmosphere of intimidation, the remaining employees are reluctant to join what has always been an open-door negotiation process.

As much as the union would like to leave behind a legacy in the workplace – some structure for collective bargaining that could be used by future generations of employees – it has become difficult to speak authentically for people who, for whatever reason, don't want to carry forward the struggle for recognition. The IWW has no intention of abandoning its legal responsibility to represent all the workers in the shop, but until the current employees at Libros communicate a genuine desire for union representation, the union must reevaluate its organizing drive in light of the new workplace dynamics.

We remain committed to helping *all* workers fight for more democratic workplaces, but we can't wage their struggles for them. Should the workers at Libros ever get fed up (again) and decide they need our help, we'll be there – until then, our energies may be better spent elsewhere. Regardless of the ultimate outcome in this particular shop, we showed just how much can be accomplished by a few people and a lot of determination. With only four members, no money, and a lot of volunteer hours, the Wobblies compelled the employer to recognize and negotiate with the union. We may be a small scruffy union with radical beliefs, but we sure managed to get the boss' attention and make him take us seriously.

We learned some valuable lessons. If we had known that most of the Wobblies would leave after the Labor Board election, we never would have gone that route. Legal recognition is pretty useless without the shop floor strength to reinforce the union's demands. We are now also better acquainted with the full array of dirty tricks that employers use to undermine a union drive. The use of temporary agencies to erode worker solidarity is epidemic in our economy, and the success of that technique in this campaign is typical of what unions face everywhere.

As union supporters drifted away over the last six months, management did everything it could to squash a recurrence of the union virus. When five employees quit after the Labor Board election last fall, the owner removed the only remaining union member from his position as Personnel Coordinator and began to do the hiring himself. Yet after several months the company had still only hired two workers to replace the five who departed, overlooking several qualified candidates. (One of those candidates was hired months later through a temporary agency.) This partial hiring freeze had its intended effect of screening out potential union supporters, and conveniently lowered payroll costs at the same time (though the overworked staff saw no part of those savings).

Those savings were redirected instead towards the company's union-busting activities. The owner hired a labor relations consultant from the Washington Employers' Association to negotiate the contract for him, spending thousands of dollars on these and other legal fees. Rather than address the workplace grievances that gave rise to the union drive by spending that money on his workers, he chose to engage in all-out class warfare against the union and its supporters. A campaign of petty harassment against union organizers, combined with his choke-hold on staffing levels, was ultimately successful in driving away all those who had originally organized the shop.

That harassment would have been laughable if the stakes hadn't been so high. At one point, an organizer was instructed to take down all the *Dilbert* cartoons and other clippings that decorated his work station. The owner claimed to feel threatened by the disrespectful cartoons, stating he couldn't tolerate the incitement to theft and slowdowns they supposedly endorsed. (Remember, this is a nationally-syndicated cartoon that *Z Magazine* has lambasted for its pro-corporate message, not some wild rant from the pages of *Anarchy Comics*.)

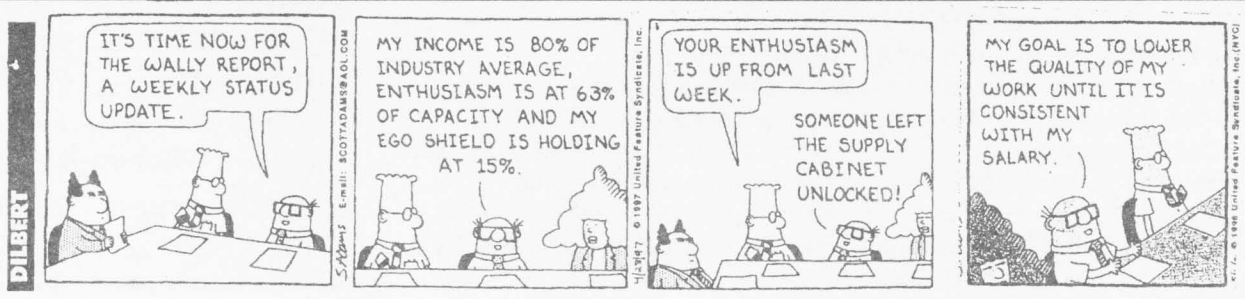
At another point last year, the same organizer received the following disciplinary memo. "Please be aware that your choosing to write the following annotation for the book *Women and Family: Love as a Vital Process* misused company time and, I believe, showed poor judgment and lack of concern for your job responsibilities: '(this book)...reinforces outdated sexual roles by perpetuating the notion of motherhood as the sole, legitimate career path for women. This book is oblivious to the diversity of contemporary families, glorifying instead the traditional nuclear arrangement. An excellent book for men who wish to keep their wives perpetually subservient.' Please be aware that there are far better ways to bring to my attention titles which you do not feel are appropriate for our catalog."

The company's most recent innovation in anti-union tactics is its use of temp agencies to provide "dispensable" workers. Other new employees have been hired part-time or for temporary periods. This policy of deliberate under-staffing has achieved its original goal of increasing control over a much-reduced staff, but has backfired against the company by plunging the shop into a spiral of overwork and deteriorating customer service. The fill rate on outgoing orders has plummeted while turnaround times have increased, and many important tasks continue to be ignored at the company's long-term peril.

The owner of Libros, Michael "Miguel" Shapiro, tries to foster an image of his company as a pillar of the progressive community. He has attempted to buy favor within our community by contributing to worthy causes like the Santo Tomas/Thurston Sister County Association. But his hostile disregard for the wishes of his own employees, and his strenuous efforts to defeat the union, reveal his true colors.

Far from the poor beleaguered small businessman that he has made himself out to be, Shapiro is in fact a savvy capitalist who has learned to milk the progressive market for all it's worth. Why should this community care? For one thing, his personnel policies help to keep wages and benefits down locally by discouraging union activity. Perhaps even worse, his policies corrode the progressive values of our community by establishing a double

(Continued page 18)


DILBERT
IT'S TIME NOW FOR THE WALLY REPORT, A WEEKLY STATUS UPDATE.
MY INCOME IS 80% OF INDUSTRY AVERAGE, ENTHUSIASM IS AT 63% OF CAPACITY AND MY EGO SHIELD IS HOLDING AT 15%.
YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS UP FROM LAST WEEK.
SOMEONE LEFT THE SUPPLY CABINET UNLOCKED!
MY GOAL IS TO LOWER THE QUALITY OF MY WORK UNTIL IT IS CONSISTENT WITH MY SALARY.

A Wobbly organizer was forced to remove these seditious cartoons from his workstation at Libros. Management deemed them "inappropriate."

Contract negotiations are stalled over these points:

. **Purpose**. The IWW proposed that a purpose of the contract should be to "create a workplace culture that values collective decision-making, prefers collaboration to hierarchy, and encourages each individual to develop personally and professionally." Management's response was telling – they proposed instead that we "create a workplace culture that values collective discussion and collaboration (and) the open expression of ideas..." This refusal to discuss real power-sharing (expressed here in terms of decision-making) permeates their entire approach to bargaining.

. **Union Representation**. The IWW proposed the creation of several committees, composed of union and company representatives, in order to deal with a variety of workplace issues as they came up. The company is dead-set against the creation of Safety and Personnel Committees, however, and has proposed language that would give them the prerogative to settle all grievances unilaterally (rendering a proposed Contract Committee all but useless).

Job Security. The union proposed a rational scheme of hiring, layoff, and promotion based on seniority, which the company nixed in favor of a policy "based upon the Employer's assessment of their merit and their ability to perform the work..." The company is set on creating a sycophant's paradise, where the appearance of hard work matters more than its performance. While such an approach is good for management's "flexibility," no doubt, the competitive atmosphere it fosters hurts workers' morale and any notion of team-building.

Contract Grievance Procedure. Here's the company's version of a grievance procedure: *Employee submits grievance to company. Company must respond within thirty days. End of grievance procedure.* Such a procedure would be about as effective as asking the Olympia Police Department to conduct an internal investigation – the outcomes are all too predictable.

Benefits. The union wants health and vacation benefits extended to all employees working more than 20 hours a week (currently only full-time workers qualify for these benefits). The company also refuses to extend its coverage to include dental or vision care, nor is it willing to cover any employees' dependents. (It should be noted that by hiring part-timers and encouraging turnover, the company has only had to pay the current minimal benefits to one or two employees at any given time.) Bereavement leave has also been refused by the company.

Review and Promotion. The company has deleted this portion entirely. The union's proposal involved a series of regular raises and reviews by staff. This was jettisoned in favor of the de facto system of subjective evaluation based on intangible factors like loyalty and commitment.

Progressive Discipline. The union proposed that the company be required to provide each worker with an "Operating Manual" outlining the employer's expectations, policies, and rules, and that disciplinary action against workers could only be for violations of this manual. We also outlined a series of progressive disciplinary steps including verbal and written warnings followed by paid leave and finally termination. This entire section was rejected out-of-hand by the company, who would prefer to retain the flexibility of Washington's notorious "at-will" employment doctrine.

No Strike Clause. The company proposed a "no-strike" clause, hoping to tie the union's hands for the duration of the contract. The IWW constitution forbids such concessions, however, making this a non-negotiable issue for the union.

Temporary Agencies. The company wants to enshrine its new practice of hiring through temp agencies by including contract language that would protect such an arrangement, while denying such workers the most minimal benefits. They could be fired anytime, and their months at the company spent in the temp agency's employ would not count towards their probationary period should they get hired permanently.

Latest Development in Western Shoshone Land Rights Dispute

U.S. Refuses to Halt Actions Against Western Shoshone

Western Shoshone Defense Project

On March 6, 1998, the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission on Human Rights "reiterated its request to the United States Government to stay its action [impeding Western Shoshone land use] pending an investigation by the Commission of the alleged facts." In February of 1998, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued Notices which threaten to impound the nationalized cattle that the Western Shoshone grandmothers Carrie and Mary Dann graze on disputed land. A second set of Notices threaten the forcible removal of Western Shoshone property from the contested lands in Crescent Valley. As a member of the OAS, the U.S. is legally bound to uphold the Organization's Human Rights principles.

This is the second such request the OAS has filed with the United States. The first was in 1993, the year the Dann sisters first filed a complaint against the U.S. for denying them their collective rights as Western Shoshone people to their land and to their culture - which is inseparable from the land. The case also asserts that the U.S. has violated their rights to due process, to equal protection under the law, and to own property. These charges stem from a Western Shoshone land rights struggle which has lasted for decades.

Western Shoshone people continue to use and occupy their ancestral homelands as they have since time immemorial: they hunt, graze livestock, hold ceremonies, raise families, and gather traditional food and medicines. They act as caretakers for Newe Sogobia - protecting the land for the future generations, and passing on the history tied to it. Today, the United States is actively taking away the abilities of the Western Shoshone to continue this way of life. It denies them use of their lands, while at the same time it permits the degradation of these lands by multi-national mining corporations, the military, and the nuclear industry. The OAS case addresses these current assaults on Western Shoshone people's culture and livelihoods.

As Carrie Dann states: "The indigenous peoples are the only peoples whose land gets taken without our permission by the U.S. government, which claims to be a democracy. They are committing a spiritual genocide of our people. Our rights are given to us by the Creator, but the U.S. treats us as less than human by taking them away."

As Carrie Dann states: "The indigenous peoples are the only peoples whose land gets taken without our permission by the U.S. government, which claims to be a democracy. They are committing a spiritual genocide of our people. Our rights are given to us by the Creator, but the U.S. treats us as less than human by taking them away." The case is the first filed before the Commission on behalf of Native Americans in the U.S.

The Indian Law Resource Center, which is presenting the case before the Commission, wrote Elko BLM District Manager Helen Hankins, asking for an immediate response as to "whether the Bureau of Land Management intends to respect the request of the Commission to stay its action or plans to enforce the order." This afternoon, Ms. Hankins stated that the U.S. will not comply with the OAS' request.

Please contact Jennifer Allen, Marianna Aue or Chrisopher Sewall at the WSDP for more information about the case, for documentation of the above material, or for co-ordinating interviews or visits. Please also visit our web-site, at www.alphacdc.com/wsdp, for more information.

The Indian Law Resource Center is also available to comment on the case: 505-784-3016 (lead counsel James Anaya) or 406-449-2006 (main office)

Western Shoshone Defense Project PO Box 211106 Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821 Ph: 702-468-0230 Fax: 702-468-0237 http://www.alphacdc.com/wsdp/and http://www.teleport.com/~amt/planetpeace/wsdp

WESTERN SHOSHONE DEFENSE PROJECT BACKGROUND

The U.S. Constitution states that treaties, agreements between sovereign nations, are the supreme law of the land.

The 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley between the U.S. and the Western Shoshone Nation remains in effect, affirming the sovereign status of the Western Shoshone and recognizing the boundaries of their territory. The destruction of cultural sites and water sources was clearly not intended to be permitted through the Treaty of Ruby Valley. Oro Nevada's activities fall within the boundaries of the Western Shoshone Nation and violate the Treaty and the U.S. Constitution.

Oro Nevada Mining Company first appeared in the Crescent Valley area in early spring 1996, staking claims on most of the so-called public lands surrounding the Dann ranch. In July 1996 Oro Nevada purchased the neighboring Dean Ranch, 48,276 acres of private land spread across the Dann's traditional use area. In total, Oro Nevada controls over 94,000 acres of land in the Crescent Valley area. The company is completely owned by Oro Nevada Resources Inc. of Toronto, Ontario Canada and selling stock through the MVP Capital Corporation, also of Toronto. They were able to raise 40 million dollars almost overnight to fund the purchase of the Dean Ranch and their exploration activities in Crescent Valley. One of the founding directors is a wealthy Canadian geologist named Ian Parks who has connections with mining ventures around the world.

The Dann family of the Western Shoshone Nation, the Western Shoshone Defense Project, and the Western Shoshone National Council are asking for your immediate assistance in protecting a site of cultural/spiritual significance.

Oro Nevada Mining Company has filed a Notice of Intent with the Bureau of Land Management to conduct exploratory drilling for gold directly on top of a hot spring located approximately one mile south of the Dann ranch in Crescent Valley, Nevada. Past exploratory drilling has destroyed other hot springs in the area. The hot spring adjacent to the Dann ranch is especially vulnerable because of its low flow.

The Danns live on one of the few areas surrounding the world famous "Carlin Trend" ore body that has not been extensively explored or impacted by gold mining ventures. These activities by Oro Nevada represent the final invasion of trans-national gold mining ventures on the traditional lands of the Dann family. The potential of these activities to destroy the hot spring and other cultural sites represents not only an attack on the Dann family but on the cultural integrity of the Western Shoshone Nation. The destruction of sacred sites is an attempt at the destruction of the spirit.

These acts constitute genocide against the Western Shoshone Nation.

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9 to g et involved with the Olympia Coalition for Equal Opportunity. *Works In Progress* - April, 1998

MAI Not! Campaigns for "MAI Free" Zone

Eric Leuschner

The word is finally out on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), and eleventh hour resistance to this NAFTA-style "constitution for a global economy" is growing almost exponentially. South Sound MAI Not! (an Oly based ad hoc citizens group mobilized around opposition to the MAI) is rapidly amassing community support for a proposed "MAI Free Zone" in the Olympia-Tumwater-Lacey area, and is taking steps to get local government to actualize such a resolution. Similar resolutions are being drawn up all across the country and the world as a symbolic gesture and possible defense against the new Bill of Rights for transnational capitol. The "MAI Free Zone" strategy is a positive reaffirmation of our community's rights and sends a strong message to an under-informed U.S. Congress that the MAI, as it is now drafted, is an abominably lopsided, irresponsible way of regulating a global economy, and is absolutely unacceptable.

Negotiated in veritable secrecy since 1995 at the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (an invitation-only secretariat hosting the world's dominant industrialized economies), the MAI had been projected to slip unobtrusively into law just this last year with essentially zero public or governmental scrutiny (apparently, the Clinton administration had been engaged with the matter for some time, but these talks occurred behind closed doors and beneath congressional radar, as it were). Luckily, in January 1997, a draft of the 170-page document was "liberated" from the OECD, and the immediate criticism and outrage it inspired forced the negotiators to delay the inception date. If passed, it will be a legally binding document to the United States and all 28 other OECD member nations for twenty years (the same goes for those not-quite-so-developed nations that were excluded from the negotiations yet will be "allowed" to accede). The result will be a firewall between the activities of multinationals & the democratic process, empowering foreign investors at the expense of local sustainability and self-determination, and enfeebling socially conscious legislators who fear corporate lawsuit against their jurisdictions. Activists expect that the MAI will be voted on as a treaty in the Senate next fall (probably in a "lame duck" session). All of the above activity is aimed at pressuring Washington's senators to cast their votes against the MAI. It is also hoped that the MAI Free-Zone resolutions will be passed in time for the late April OECD Ministerial in Paris which is expected to announce the MAI's final draft.

Fortunately, resistance is mounting in a formidable way, not a moment too soon and not just from the left. Over six hundred NGO's (non-governmental organization) from 67 countries signed on to a joint statement February 12 to call for the suspension of the negotiations until "substantive and procedural" concerns are met. Michael McCloskey, chairman of Sierra Club, remarks that "few issues have galvanized such diverse citizen opposition. The MAI is all corporate rights and no responsibilities". Lori Wallach, trade activist & director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch (a Washington, D.C. based organization) says that "opposition to the MAI is the fastest growing international citizens' movement". MAI Not! has taken up the challenge of grassroots resistance to this Goliath of a trade bill.

Since its inception, MAI Not! has worked diligently to organize against the MAI and rally opposition to it in the community. From conventional tactics like tabling and letter-writing campaigns, to soliciting the support of community groups local governing bodies, to lobbying on the state level, MAI Not! certainly has its work cut out for it. They have already succeeded in having resolutions passed in the Democratic Party's recent caucuses, putting the issue on the table for the upcoming county convention. They have managed to catch the attention of non-progressive constituencies like Perot's Reform Party. They have gotten positive responses from local organizations like the Thurston-Lewis Counties Labor Council, the Teamsters, the League of Women Voters, as well as the Social Justice Committees of the Catholics, the Quakers, & the Unitarians. Since it is local jurisdictions that have the most to lose if the MAI were to go through, MAI Not! is enthusiastic about their efforts at networking community groups and local government, hoping that their labors will produce a "ripple effect" in the South Sound and inspire these groups to mobilize on their own. MAI Not! has also taken initial steps towards a more tangible form of resistance: the establishing of a series of "MAI Free Zones" in the region.

What is MAI Free Zone? It is essentially a public document ratified by the city council stating that the MAI is not in the public interest, and therefore such-and-such a jurisdiction is not legally subject to it. A standard resolution along these lines would justify a region's immunity on several grounds: that the city is not represented in the negotiations, nor will it be allowed to represent itself in any judicial proceedings resulting from the treaty in matters that concern its own interests and ordinances; that local government would be prohibited from passing any ordinances that conflict with the MAI; that the interest of a region's citizens are not promoted by an agreement that creates new privileges and rights for international investors; that the MAI contains no provisions to protect the environment or the workers of their community. While primarily intended to bring attention to the MAI and put on the record a community's rejection of it, the legal implications of an "MAI Free Zone" have not been thoroughly investigated, and might prove to be a wild card in the future should the MAI get passed.

A simple majority vote in the city council is enough to get an "MAI Free Zone" enacted. But, without broad community support, the passage of this resolution would be an empty gesture according to Michael MacSems, one of the founding members of MAI Not! & trade activist since the NAFTA days. "The real point of doing this," says MacSems, "is to create a political climate where national politicians are feeling the heat from local jurisdictions". To Michael, genuine success is in getting a lot of community groups educated and involved in what MAI Not! is trying to do, so that "we can go before a room full of people in a very dramatic way, saying that this is an important issue & hopefully get a unanimous vote from the city council. I don't want to go in the middle of the night & strong arm some city council member, saying, 'Hey, you really ought to pass this.'" So far, MAI Not! has on its agenda the city councils of Olympia, Tumwater, & Lacey, but they hope to disseminate the idea throughout the South Sound quickly enough to realize regional solidarity on this issue in time to help set the stage for the upcoming battle in the Senate.

MIA Not! is still in the process of refining its strategy, and is actively seeking support and involvement from all sectors of the community. If you wish to get involved or learn more about South Sound MAI Not! or the "MAI Free Zones", contact Michael MacSems at (360) 754-9585. If you are looking for a more detailed explanation and critique of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, you can find it on the World Wide Web through Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch at www.citizen.org, or at the Sierra Club's website, www.sierraclub.org. And it goes without saying that you should write or call your elected officials and express your concern before it is too late.

A simple majority vote in the city council is enough to get an "MAI Free Zone" enacted. But, without broad community support, the passage of this resolution would be an empty gesture.

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Legislative Building, Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 753-6780

State Attorney General Christine Gregoire
1125 Washington SE Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 753-6200

Rep. Linda Smith
1508 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 255-3536 or (360) 753-3073

Rep. Adam Smith
1505 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-8901 or (253) 926-6683
Toll-free: 1-888-SMITH-09

Senator Patty Murray
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2621

Senator Slade Gorton
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3441

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright
(202) 456-1111

Sources: Public Citizens Global Trade Watch Action Packet on the MAI and various leaflets and flyers; Global Trade Watch e-mail list; and interview with Michael MacSems.

Locals Get Active Around MAI

Michael MacSems

About 70 people turned up at the Olympia Library to hear trade activists Lori Wallach, Dan Seligman and Antonia Juhasz speak on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in late February. The crowd was treated to a detailed description of how the MAI works and how it would undermine local democracy, as well as environmental and social justice issues. The event was recorded and is now being shown on TCTV (see below for schedule). About a dozen people stayed afterwards for an activist training session lead by Public Citizen's Chantell Taylor.

From that meeting a core group, known as Olympia MAI Not! (and sometimes as South Sound MAI Not!) has developed and is determined to turn up the political temperature around MAI both on the locally and on the state level. One sub-group is working on lobbying state law makers and state offices (such as the Attorney General). Another sub-group is working on the local city councils to pass resolutions condemning the MAI for its anti-democratic bent. In addition to talking with local officials and policy makers, Olympia MAI Not! as been organizing in the community by speaking to local community groups and will soon begin tabling at the co-ops and other public places.

Activist expect that the MAI will be voted on as a treaty in the Senate next fall (probably in a "lame duck" session). All of the above activity is aimed at pressuring Washington's senators to cast their votes against the MAI. It is also hoped that the MAI Free-Zone resolutions will be passed in time for the late April OECD Ministerial in Paris which is expected to announce the MAI's final draft.

For more information, or to find out how you can get involved, please call 754-9585.

SCHEDULE FOR TCTV'S (Channel 3) AIRING OF LORI WALLACH'S OLYMPIA TALK ON MAI:

Saturday, March 28, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 29, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, April 6, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.

International Day of Action Against Sweatshops

Campaign for Labor Rights

Yes to workers' rights! No to corporate privilege!

On April 18, the heads of state of the Americas will be meeting in Santiago, Chile to make plans for expanding NAFTA to rest of the region. These trade agreements are designed to make it easy for companies such as Nike to roam the world in search of low-wage havens and repressive governments. Join with human rights advocates in cities all across the United States and Canada -- and the world -- to demonstrate your support for the rights of Nike workers and their opposition to the corporate sweatshop agenda. Stand up and voice your concerns about corporate-dominated "free trade" policies.

Nike is the focus of a local anti-sweatshop protest which is part of an international mobilization in support of the rights of Nike's overseas workers. This will be the second International Nike Mobilization. The first, in October, involved activities in more than 85 communities in 13 countries around the world and was featured in the Doonesbury comic strip for more than a week. (see sidebar for the story of Olympia's October action at the Nike Golf Tour).

These trade agreements are designed to make it easy for companies such as Nike to roam the world in search of low-wage havens and repressive governments.

The Nike Company has been the recipient of criticisms from human rights activists for several years. For some time, it appeared that exposure of sweatshop abuses only boosted the company's skyrocketing sales still further. During the past 12 months, however, the Nike brand has taken a drubbing. Sales have plummeted. Inventory has accumulated in critical markets, such as Asia, to the point where it may be a year or more before the company can move existing product. All of this has taken a toll on Nike stock, which has lost approximately half its value. While this reversal of fortune is doubtless partly attributable to the vagaries of fashion, analysts are nearly universal in ascribing much of the blame to the failure of top Nike management to undertake a serious and systematic reform of the company's now notorious labor practices.

In the U.S. and Canada, many of the local actions on April 18 will take place at Foot Locker stores, Nike's biggest outlet in North America. **There will be a planning meeting April 8th, 7pm in the Liberation Cafe to plan Olympia's day of action. We still have the signs and banners that we successfully used to kick the Nike Golf Tour out of Olympia last year!**

Goals of the Nike Campaign

* a living wage based on an 8-hour day
* an end to forced overtime
* working conditions consistent with human dignity
* no more child labor
* freedom to join a union and engage in collective bargaining
* factory monitoring by local human rights and religious organizations
* redress claims of workers fired for protesting wages and working conditions

A company without shame

Nike CEO Philip Knight is the 6th richest person in the United States. In early 1997, his stock in the company was worth $5.3 billion.

The women in Haiti who sewed Nike clothing made the equivalent of 30 cents an hour. But that was still too much for Nike's contractor. In September, the H.H. Cutler company moved its operations to China, where it now pays only 13 cents an hour.

Until the Asian currency crisis, the women who make Nike shoes in Indonesia were paid the equivalent of $2.46 a day. Based on mainstream media reports, that daily wage is now less that 70 cents a day. Even as the media report riots by Indonesians who no longer can afford to feed themselves, Nike refuses to pay its workers more that this paltry sum.

The women who make Nike shoes in Vietnam make the equivalent of only $45-$47 a month and are subject to substantial deductions for minor infractions such as leaving the factory grounds to eat lunch.

A pair of Nike shoes that sells for $90 has about $1.20 of labor cost in it. Nike's marketing budget including advertising and other promotion for 1997 was $978 million.

In Indonesia, where Nike has more than 60,000 workers, true labor unions are prohibited. Independent labor leader Muchtar Pakpahan is in prison facing a possible death penalty for trying to win better conditions and basic rights for Indonesian workers. By its own admission, Nike prefers to locate its production in countries with repressive governments: "nike likes a strong government... For example, Nike was a major producer in both Korea and Taiwan when these countries were largely under military rule. It currently favors China... and Indonesia where President Suharto has been in charge since 1967...Nike never did move into the Philippines in a big way in the 1980s, a period when democracy there flourished. Thailand's democracy movement of 1992 also corresponded to Nike's downgrading of production in that country."

A December, 1997 report from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions states that a Nike contractor in Malaysia pays migrant workers from Bangladesh lower wages and gives them fewer benefits than local works - in violation of Nike's own code of conduct, which stipulates that neither the company not its contractors will discriminate on the basis of race or ethnic origin.

In November 1997, the New York Times headlined a confidential report written by Nike's own auditor and leaked by a disgruntled employee. This is the first time that any of Ernst and Young's secret reports to Nike has been made public. The report details a number of problems at one of Nike's factories in Vietnam, including: long hours of forced overtime at low wages and exposure to dangerous chemicals at up to 177 times the level allowed by law.

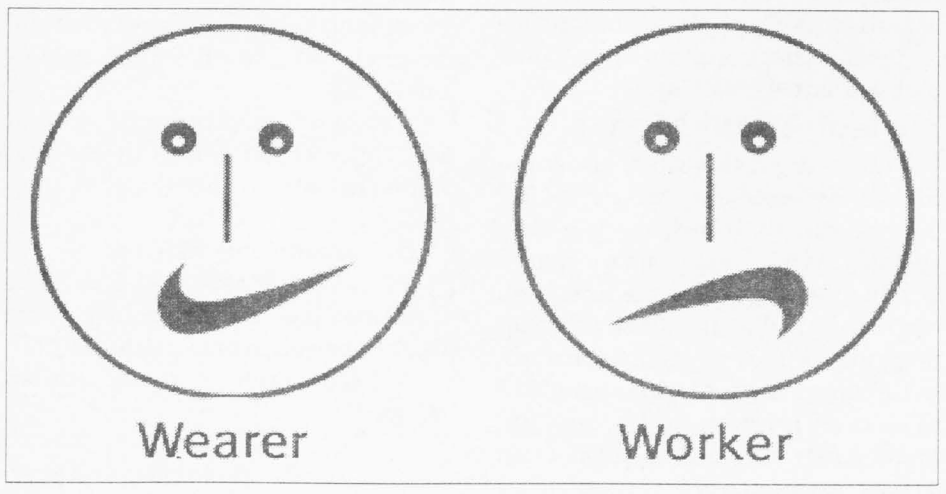
In October 1996, the CBS "48 Hours" program exposed Nike labor abuses in Vietnam, including: beatings, sexual harassment and forcing workers to kneel for extended periods with their arms held in the air. CBS refused to allow reporter Roberta Baskin to do a follow-up. During Nike-sponsored CBS coverage of the 1998 Winter Olympics, newscasters wore the Nike logo on camera, in clear violation of journalistic standards.

Nike and Foot Locker

Foot Locker is Nike's biggest customer in North America. Press For Change, which has been tracking Nike sweatshops abuses in Indonesia for almost a decade, urges local activists to focus on Foot Locker. Even with a precipitous decline in sales and stock value, Nike top executives persist in their bunker mentality and have refused to make systematic reforms in the company's overseas labor practices. Foot Locker is a division of the U.S. based Woolworth Corporation. Woolworth also owns the Northern stores (Northern Traditions, Northern Expressions, Northern Getaway) prominent in Canada and states near the Canadian border. The Northern stores have been implicated in the use of sweatshops in the Toronto area.

Woolworth's Northern Sweatshops

In Metro Toronto, women are sewing clothes for piece rates well below minimum wage. Women sewing in small contract factories have been documented to be earning as little as $4.50 ($3.50 US) an hour. Women sewing at home have earned as little as $1.75 US an hour. Women sewers have been denied vacation pay, statutory holidays, employer contributions to Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan. During heavy production periods, they often work 12 hours a day with no overtime pay.



Bye-Bye Olympia Nike Golf Tournament

Pat Tassoni

Well, the Nike Golf Tour announced that it isn't going to return to Olympia this October. Too bad -- the activist community was really getting into it. We've protested at the gates of the Indian Summer Country Club for two years, more than doubling community participation the second time. The first year, the *Olympian* put a small article on us inside the South Sound section with a black-and-white photo; the second year, we were on the cover of that section with a color photo. Our growing success can be attributed to the public's awareness of Nike's business practices and to their outrage at the hypocrisy of such a company coming to town with their track record.

Initially, I think the *Olympian*, as a corporate sponsor of the event, wanted to keep Nike's business practices and our protest as quiet as possible. But as the next year rolled around, they knew they couldn't save their corporate brother from attack. So with our success (and the help of others across the U.S. as well as around the world) we've lost the Nike Golf Tour here in Olympia. But what have we really lost?

Nike put up $100,000 for the winners of the Golf Tournament, and our community was supposed to come up with sponsorships, volunteers, and spectators to help raise money for the event and anything left over would trickle down to selected mainstream non-profits.

I'm sure our protests had some impact on the ability to raise that money through sponsors or otherwise as well as spectators (even though on the day of the protest, I estimate we nearly equalled the number of spectators). Even if the protests didn't have any effect on this, we can still be proud that our community saw through the scam of rallying under the banner and name of a morally bankrupt multinational corporation to supposedly raise money to help our community.

Wouldn't it be a more honest and direct effort to rally under the banner of goodness in the name of humanity to address our community's ills? I challenge the Olympian to dedicate as many articles and as much advertisement space recruiting volunteers to work with local groups to address some of the pressing issues of our community such as homelessness, poverty, discrimination, etc. as they did promoting the Nike Golf Tour. I guarantee the results will be worth it to the community and the Olympian.

Anyways, the Nike Golf Tour is being moved this Fall to Eugene, Oregon. Meanwhile, Nike continues denying the documented charges against its sweatshop business practices and global economic exploitation. Eugene is about a 4 or 5 hour drive from here. Does anybody know anyone there? Can anyone give me a ride?

See you there!

Smoking, Lies and Hypocrisy

Paul Wright

The recent settlement proposal between the tobacco industry and the attorney general's of 41 states has been in the news a lot lately. I share a home with 158 other men, 90% of whom smoke. The walls literally weep nicotine. A woefully inadequate ventilation system blows the smoke of countless handrolled, unfiltered cigarettes around. Even though the state pays virtually 100% of our medical costs if we get sick, nothing in the tobacco settlement will affect my state of affairs. The State of Washington ensures that loose leaf tobacco is readily available at 68 cents per 3/4 ounce box. The same state makes millions selling tobacco products to my neighbors. I am a prisoner at the Washington State Reformatory in Monroe, WA.

The Backdrop

On March 20, 1997, the attorney general of 22 states held a press conference in Washington D.C. to announce the settlement of their lawsuit against the Leggett Group, the smallest of the big tobacco companies. Florida Attorney General (AG) Bob Butterworth used the occasion to wonder how many lives would have been saved, how many people would have lived longer to enjoy life with their children and grandchildren if the tobacco industry had not lied to them about the dangers of tobacco when they first began smoking.

Arizona AG Grant Woods noted of the tobacco industry, "They produce a product which, when used as intended by them, causes lung cancer, heart disease, and emphysema...Their product contains nicotine and that nicotine is addictive... In courts, in the halls of Congress, on television shows, and in newspapers, every place they've gone through the history of this industry, they have denied these allegations."

Three months later, on June 20, 1997, the AG's of forty states held another press conference in Washington D.C. to announce their settlement of lawsuits against the four largest tobacco companies in the U.S., including Brown and Williamson and Philip Morris. The theory behind the states' lawsuits was that the tobacco companies had known about the dangers related to smoking and had concealed these dangers from the public. The states sued seeking reimbursement for Medicaid money spent by the states to provide medical care to those smokers who became sick as a result of their smoking. A fawning corporate media duly gave each AG the TV soundbite they needed for the newscast back home. The print media obliged by running lengthy op-ed by their respective AG lauding their achievement in settling the lawsuit under terms that will ensure the financial viability of the tobacco industry for the foreseeable future. Typical of this was an almost full page op ed in the Sunday, July 20, 1997, *Seattle Times* by Washington AG Christine Gregoire, titled "It's Not About Money, It's About Smoke." In her article Gregoire calls tobacco an "addictive, deadly product" and estimates Washington state will receive up to $100 million a year, forever, under the settlement.

Smoking is Harmless

The attorney general's office in each state primarily provides counsel and representation to other state agencies. They have virtually no role in criminal prosecutions and do relatively little in the way of consumer protection in terms of their budget expenditures. When representing state agencies against the interests of the citizenry, the latter invariably loses.

Thomas Waugh is a Florida smoker who wants to quit but can't do it on his own. He filed a lawsuit in federal court in Jacksonville seeking nicotine replacement patches from the state to help him overcome his tobacco addiction. Waugh is a prisoner and the defendant, represented by AG Bob Butterworth, is the Florida Department of corrections (DOC). Butterworth responded to Waugh's lawsuit with a motion to dismiss, telling the court that nicotine isn't addictive and Waugh can quit smoking whenever he wants simply by not buying cigarettes from the prison commissary. The state's argument says Waugh "is in no way entitled to medical intervention to 'cure' a habit which [he] himself continues to indulge and over which he has ultimate control." In his Medicaid lawsuit against the tobacco industry butterworth argued the exact opposite: nicotine is so habit forming it "virtually extinguishes personal choice in those who become addicted" and cigarette makers capitalize upon the known addictive nature of nicotine. Nicotine addiction is similar to the addictions of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine and amphetamines." Unless you're a prisoner.

Tobacco company lawyers were very interested in the state's response to Waugh's lawsuit. When Philip Morris lawyer Stephen J. Krigbaum deposed Waugh he asked him, "it's pretty hypocritical, isn't it?" "Yes sir, it is," said Waugh.

This response, that smoking is harmless, from an AG's office is far from unusual. It's the norm. In 1993 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling saying that exposing non smoking prisoners to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS, a.k.a. second hand smoke) violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The percentage of prisoners who smoke varies from a high of 95% in the District of Columbia to a relative low of 75% in Florida. Outside of prisons the number are reversed, with non-smokers being a majority. The result has been a steady number of lawsuits brought by non smoking prisoners seeking injunctions against ETS exposure.

Invariably the defendant prison officials are represented by their state's attorney general. As in Waugh's case, they argue that smoking is harmless. In Washington state prisoners filed a lawsuit over ETS exposure. Christine Gregoire's office defended the DOC and argued there was no significant danger associated with ETS exposure, despite significant medical evidence to the contrary.

When Gregoire announced Washington's lawsuit against the tobacco industry on June 5, 1996, at a Seattle hospital press conference, she said "The tobacco industry has targeted our kids, withheld safer products and deliberately mislead the public about the safety of smoking. This lawsuit is intended to make the tobacco cartel play by the same rules as other businesses." Two days later, an indignant editorial in the *Seattle Times* criticized the tobacco company CEO's who told congress, under oath, in 1994, that nicotine was not addictive. "The industry's strategy of total denial reads like fiction_."

In 1996 the Florida DOC bought more than $5 million worth of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and loose leaf tobacco) to sell to prisoners at a 33% markup. Gross sales of tobacco products in Florida prisons totaled $7,592,172 in 1996.

Met with silence by the media was a ruling by Washington D.C. federal Judge Stanley Sporkin, who granted an injunction to three District of Columbia prisoners to prevent their exposure to ETS. The District of Columbia DOC argued that ETS was harmless and posed absolutely no danger whatsoever to human health.

Judge Sporkin used scathing language to describe the position of the DOC's attorney. "The District of Columbia in this action requests the court to go along with its repudiation of its prior findings concerning the ill effects of second had smoke. This court declines to accept the District's unwise and, indeed, unconscionable position." Judge Sporkin expressed his "mystification" when the DOC's counsel opposed introduction of the DIstrict's policy on "Smoke Free Environments," on the basis that it was hearsay!

Noting that the District imposes widespread restrictions on smoking outside prison: "Inexplicably, the District has taken a somewhat different tact when it comes to the health of its prison population. Having recognized the dangers of ETS the District has not adequately explained why it is all right to expose its prison population to such hazards." Perhaps the commonality of the District's argument in court makes it unnewsworthy.

It's Not About Money

Prisons are responsible, under the Eighth Amendment, for providing medical care to the prisoners in their custody. While many states charge nominal fees to access medical care, the reality it that the state picks up more than 99% of the medical cost tab. In 1996, the State of Florida spent $213 million on prisoner health care, annual average of $3,148 per prisoner. In a report on the possible consequences of a ban on prison tobacco sales, the Florida Senate noted that the DOC was "reluctant to assess the number of inmates who have cancer or other medical conditions as a result of their tobacco use." The report estimated that thousands of Florida prisoners seek treatment each month for medical conditions that are either smoking related or worsened by exposure to tobacco smoke. State senator Lock Burt claims smoking related illness adds $41 million to prisoner health care costs in Florida each year.

So while AG Bob Butterworth is carping about Medicaid costs caused by the tobacco industry he willingly defends a sate agency that promotes tobacco use. In 1996 the Florida DOC bought more than $5 million worth of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and loose leaf tobacco) to sell to prisoners at a 33% markup. Gross sales of tobacco products in Florida prisons totaled $7,592,172 in 1996.

The First One's Free, Kid

When I entered the Washington state prison system in 1987 each week every prisoner was given two boxes of loose leaf tobacco.

The practice ended in 1989 when the legislature balked at spending $289,000 a year to give prisoners the tobacco. The practice had been going on since at least the mid-fifties and continued long after the negative health effects of tobacco were well known. Christine Gregoire has not commented on the State of Washington giving tobacco away (even to minors) to prisoners.

Bob Butterworth, however, has. Stephen Krigbaum, the Philip Morris attorney, rocked the Florida state tobacco litigation team when he introduced documents from the Florida state archives showing that the state made cigarettes at two prison tobacco factories and gave them away to prisoners, juvenile prisoners and mental patients, and sold them to hospitals and county jails. At the time the Florida DOC was making and giving away cigarettes, the state knew nicotine was addictive and that cigarettes killed. The state of Florida spent more than $500,000 a year between 1972 and 1980 to give away cigarettes. "The fundamental claim in their lawsuits that the state is an innocent third party. And these documents show the hypocrisy of that" said Krigbaum.

Kim Tucker, Butterworth's deputy handling the Medicaid suit downplayed the revelation, saying it was no secret the DOC made cigarettes. "It was one of our prison industries. We discontinued it," she said. Left unsaid is that it was only prisoners' health at stake.

Evidence revealed by Krigbaum showed that:

- $9,660 worth of cigarettes were sold by the DOC to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services and hospitals such as the Florida State Hospital.
- County governments bought $73,209 worth of prison made cigarettes, mainly to distribute in their jails.

DOC documents showed:

- A net profit of $81,245 was made from the state tobacco factory at the Raiford prison in one quarter in 1977.

A 1978 State Senate document showed:

(Continued next page)

(Smoking, continued)

• The Florida state prison began manufacturing cigarettes in 1972, and state prison officials estimate that half the prisoner population accepted the free cigarettes.

• The report said the cigarettes made by the state were unfiltered and contained "some of the highest tar and nicotine levels, thus are particularly unhealthy."

Minutes from a 1980's governor's panel meeting showed:

• DOC officials said the state stopped providing the free cigarettes after the University of Florida said the state cigarettes were causing cancer in prisoners due to their high nicotine content.

• The legislature rejected a request for money to make cigarettes with lower nicotine so the state decided to stop making them.

According to a 1993 state memo produced by Krigbaum, a juvenile detention facility spent state money to buy cigarettes from a tobacco distributor in order to give them away to juvenile detainees. Janet Ferris, the recipient of the memo who is now general counsel to the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, said she didn't recall any details about the memo. Under Florida law it is illegal to give or sell cigarettes to minors.

In May 1997, the tobacco industry filed its own lawsuit against the State of Florida arguing the state had "unclean hands" in that it had done pretty much everything it was accusing the tobacco industry of doing: manufacturing cigarettes; targeting minors; downplaying and ignoring the health risks associated with tobacco use; denying nicotine was addictive, etc. The tobacco industry said it should not be required to pay for Medicaid costs that were caused by the state's promotion of tobacco. The parties settled both lawsuits in June 1997.

While several states, including Minnesota, Texas, Idaho, Nebraska and Indiana have banned tobacco use in prisons, most states have not. On the contrary, virtually all states that allow tobacco use by prisoners go to great lengths to ensure tobacco is available at very low prices to generally indigent prisoners. Loose leaf tobacco comes in 3/4 ounce boxes with no warnings at all of any health risks and sells for as little as 68 cents a box. Prisoners too poor to afford that fish cigarette butts out of ash trays to feed their nicotine habits.

In Washington, Florida, Michigan and other states, efforts to ban prison smoking go unheard or are stopped in their tracks. Washington legislators, looking to cut prison health care costs, are prepared to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to hire physical fitness instructors. The prison I am at has such classes: it stops after 45 minutes so participants can take a smoke break. Washington, like many other states, has a Clean Indoor Act which bans smoking inside state owned buildings. By executive order, prisons are exempted from this law. Likewise, when President Clinton recently restricted smoking on federal property he exempted prisons from the law.

In states where legislation has been introduced to ban prisoner smoking, the most vociferous group lobbying against such a ban was none other

(Continued page 18)

From the Inside Out

The Numbing of America

Dan Pens

Since 1973, the U.S. prison population has grown at a rate 37 times faster than the U.S. population as a whole. In 1970, there were 176,391 state and 20,038 federal prisoners behind bars. By year-end 1996 (the last full year for which reliable numbers have been published) there were 1,076,625 state and 105,544 federal prisoners; the average daily city and county jail population added another 518,492. If the average annual prison population growth of 7.3% (since 1990) is added to those numbers, by year-end 1997 there was a total of 1,825,000 adults behind bars in the U.S.

Numbers. It seems like every prison-related article begins with the author parading out the numbers. Numbers. A funny word. Try making the "b" silent. Then read the opening paragraph over again. Feel a bit numb?

Joseph Stalin once quipped: "The death of one man is a tragedy. The death of millions is a statistic." Stalin appreciated the numbing effect that overwhelming statistics can have on the human psyche. He manipulated that effect to his advantage. Sometimes I wonder if the same numbing-down of America does not occur every time any of us reads a news or magazine article about imprisonment in the U.S. Like I said, every article begins with the numbers, as if to anesthetize the reader before administering small doses of truth.

Perhaps the numbers help in that regard. Because the truth can be painful. What kind of country is the U.S. becoming? What do "freedom", "liberty", and "the pursuit of happiness" mean in a country where 1 in 250 adults work in law enforcement and where 1 in 105 adults is in prison or jail? Yes. That's correct. There are about 195,000,000 adults in the U.S. Divide that by the 1.85 million in prison or jail. Don't take my word for it. Grab a calculator. One in every 105 U.S. adults lives in a steel cage. Feeling number?

Common Courage Press just released *The Celling of America: An Inside Look at the U.S. Imprisonment Industry*. It is an anthology of material published by *Prison Legal News* from 1994-97. I worked on shaping the manuscript, in collaboration with Paul Wright and Daniel Burton-Rose, for nearly two years. I'm proud of the book. Considering that most of the manuscript was written by imprisoned authors and two of the book's editors are prisoners, I consider its publication to be a remarkable accomplishment.

I recently received my copy from the publisher. It was wonderful to hold it in my hands. Two years ago it was but a dream.

And then, despite the fact that I had read and re-read every word of the manuscript through at least eight cycles of editing and rewrite, I opened the book one late night in bed and began giving it a read. You know what? It's a terribly depressing book. You won't find a lot of "numb"ers in it. Reading it is like swigging a large dose of unpleasant truth -- without any anesthetic to make it go down easier.

The book opens with a chapter titled: "The New Politics of Crime", which explores some of the ways crime and imprisonment have been exploited by politicians in an era wherein U.S. domestic policy is transforming from a "social welfare" model to what can only be termed a "social control" model.

The second chapter offers analysis of how an increasingly corporatized media shapes public perception -- injecting an almost hysterical fear of "crime" into the American psyche. This chapter is titled: "The Distorted Lens". It's about how we all live in two worlds: the real world, which is defined and bounded by our personal experience; and the media world, which is defined and bounded by the choices of producers and editors.

Their essays are sharply informative because they are grounded in reality, the clarifying experience of dwelling within the penal system. We should listen to them.

Most people don't appreciate the power of media to shape reality. I had a phone conversation with my dad some weeks ago. He's 66 years old and has lived his entire life in Denver, Colorado. When I told him that the parole board turned me down after 16 years of imprisonment and "maxed" me out with another 13 years, he couldn't believe the injustice. but then the conversation turned from the specific (the imprisonment of one man) to the general (the statistic of millions) and he said: "Well, son, you know crime here in Denver is getting worse and worse. It's reached the point where it's a problem of huge proportions."

"Dad," I quizzed him, "you drive through the city to and from work every day, right?"

"Yes. . ." he said, wondering where I was going with this.

"Well, Dad, in all of those trips through the city, have you ever *seen* a crime being committed?"

"No."

"Have you witnessed any crime in your neighborhood? Have any of the neighbors been victimized by crime?"

"No."

"Have you or anybody you know been the victims of crime?"

"No." and, "No."

"Well, then Dad," asked, "why do you believe that crime is such a huge problem?"

"All you have to do is watch the news and read the papers," he replied with triumphant indignation. "*Everybody* knows that crime is the number one problem in the country these day."

Sigh, I think he missed the point. I didn't want our conversation to degenerate into political discourse, so I let it drop. But I urged him to read The Celling of America. I hope he does. I'll call him afterward and we'll talk again about the difference between the "real world" and the "media world".

There are six more chapters to the book, all of them dealing directly with imprisonment. And since most of the contributing writers are imprisoned, the reader is treated to the "real world" of imprisonment, not the media version. These chapters give prisoners a name and a human face and there is little in the way of "numb"ers to mask the raw experience.

William Greider, the National Editor of *Rolling Stone* and author of several books, most recently *One World Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of global Capitalism* (1997) and *Who will tell the People: The Betrayal of American Democracy* (1992), writes in the introduction to *The Celling of America*:

The bookshelves are abundantly stocked with scholarly studies of the United States' criminal justice system, but there are few, if any, like the book you are about to read. It was mainly written by criminals. Their essays are sharply informative because they are grounded in reality, the clarifying experience of dwelling within the penal system. We should listen to them, We will learn from what they see and know. We may begin to think more clearly about all that must be changed.

The book does offer clarity. But it offers little in the way of "numb"ing. And, because of that, it's not a pleasant read. With that caveat, I urge you to order the book.

I bid you farewell from the Gulag.

Dan Pens is a Washington state prisoner and co-editor of Prison Legal News; *2400 NW 80th Street #148, Seattle WA 98117. PLN's website address is www.prisonlegalnews.org.*

The Celling of America

An Inside Look at the U.S. Imprisonment Industry

Send _____ copy(s) of The Celling of America. Enclosed is $19.95 (plus $3 shipping and handling) per copy.

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Steven Lampley

ACLU Calls on House Panel To Approve Traffic Stops Bill

A.C.L.U.

WASHINGTON -- The American Civil Liberties Union, on March 3rd, urged the House Judiciary Committee to approve legislation that would begin to address the national epidemic of racially motivated traffic stops.

"Too many African American males have had the humiliating experience of being stopped on the nation's roads for no other reason than the color of their skin."

The Committee is scheduled to vote tomorrow on a bill called the "Racially Motivated Traffic Stops Act" introduced by Representative John Conyers, Democrat of Michigan. The legislation would encourage police departments to keep detailed records of traffic stops, including the race and ethnicity of the person stopped.

"Too many African American males -- including prominent athletes, members of Congress, actors and business leaders -- have had the "Too many African American males -- including prominent athletes, members of Congress, actors and business leaders -- have had the humiliating experience of being stopped on the nation's roads for no other reason than the color of their skin," said Laura W. Murphy, Director of the ACLU's Washington National Office. "This is exactly the sort of unequal treatment that leads minorities to distrust the criminal justice system."

Under the proposed bill, the Justice Department would be charged with collecting the data kept by police departments and determining the full scope of this problem nationwide.

ACLU offices around the country have dealt with complaints from African American men who have been stopped by the police for no other reason than the alleged traffic offense derisively referred to as "Driving While Black."

In Maryland, for example, the ACLU is engaged in a long-running fight with the State Police Department over traffic stops on I-95. A study of police stops on one strip of this major interstate found that 73 percent of the cars stopped and searched were driven by African-Americans while they made up only 14 percent of the people driving along the interstate.

"While anecdotal evidence abounds, there has been no systematic effort to track this trend from a federal level," Murphy said. "We're optimistic that if Congress approves this modest bill, the Justice Department will find enough hard evidence to warrant federal or state action."

© *American Civil Liberties Union*

Pennsylvania Death Row

As of February 23, the PA Department of Corrections counts 214 people under sentence of death.

Breakdown by Race:

Asian	**2**
Black	**132**
White	**70**
Hispanic	**10**
Total	**214**

Source: The October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation

Requested Books

- **Pipe Dream Blues: Racism and the War on Drugs** by Clarence Lusane
- **The State of Native American Genocide, Colonization and Resistance** Edited by M. Jaimes
- **Breaking Bread: Insurgent Black Intellectual Life** by Bell Hookds and Cornell West
- **Aztec** by Inga Cleudinnen
- **A Scattering of Jades** by Kuab and Sollivau
- **Analytical Dictionary of Nahuatl** by Kartturen Frances
- Any book on the history of Morocco or Hasan-i-Sabah (founder of Hashshashin)

If you would like to donate a book, please drop it off at Books to Prisoners

_W.I.P._ seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:
Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Everybody somewhere is looking for help

It doesn't matter if you are poor or rich—you will need help too
If we all look at each other with caringness in our eyes, minds and heart we would be able to accept one another from the start
If I look at you and judge you before I get to know you I am in the wrong
Criticism hurts—criticism cuts—but constructive criticism builds
In order for us to be loved we have got to first love ourselves
When things aren't going so good for you, look up in the sky and say thank you—saying "thank you" for whatever you say it for—helps release tension
It's nice to know good people
Good people are hard to find
But you can find good people anywhere
It's nice to know that there is a place as concerned about prisoners as Books to Prisoners is
I look forward to the books I receive from you—I think of you as concerned people
May you all continue to meet the needs of prisoners throughout the world
I hope you all are abundantly being given donations for your support
Just a little something from me to you all— Kirk Thompson

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

In greatest demand are:

English, Spanish/English, Southeast Asian dictionaries, thesaurus, new almanaces, and GED books.

Frequently requested are:

African-American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American history and progressive U.S. history.

Please donate:

- Any other good books
- Stamps and stamp money
- Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying

Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

Please make checks payable to Books to Prisoners.

Address: Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501

Telephone: (360) 352-7336

Inmates — All correspondence to Books to Prisoners *must* go through the main branch:
Books to Prisoners
Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street
Seattle WA 98101

Books to Prisoners April Events

- Open work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm above Bulldog News, 116 E. 4th, Olympia.
- Fri., Apr. 17th, Art Walk 5-10 pm ***Prison Art from the Inside Out*** Prison Art from the inmates in the Books to Prisoners Project using various media including paños, a new cultural art emerging from U.S. prisons. View a continuouly played film on prison art and participate in a silent auction. Display will be located above Bulldog News
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month., (Apr 19th), 3 pm at Liberation Cafe 116 E. 4th Ave, Oly.
- Arpil 1st new quarter begins for Bayview and Ralph's grocery receipts! (datedOct 97 to present) B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save the UPC code from Western Family Products** and send to B to P, 115 E 4th Ave, Oly WA 98501

Touchstone Celebrates First Year in Olympia

Ben Keith

On the first of February, Touchstone Group Home marked the first anniversary of their location in Olympia. With the advent of their anniversary came a request to the City of Olympia Planning and Development Committee to permit the home to increase the bed capacity by one, from 15-16. The quiet and comfortable atmosphere at the group home, as well as its commitment to orderliness and respect for its neighbors, has made the transition into its new location comfortable and rewarding.

During this last year in Olympia, as well as the three and one half years in its previous location in the Tamarc facility in Tumwater, Touchstone has joined with the local communities in working to help prepare incarcerated young men to return to their own communities as productive citizens.

Although Touchstone never houses sex offenders, it willingly serves young men who have been committed to State custody for a variety of offenses. In spite of this, not one resident has ever been involved in an incident in our community that would suggest that he might pose a risk to any property or person. Many procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the community. First of all, before a resident is accepted by Touchstone, he has to pass through a number of extremely stringent criteria, including periodic "Community Risk Assessments" at the sending institution. Although the length of time already served is important in the selection of young men for community placement, the primary considerations are their high-quality performance demonstrated over a notable time span and their commitment to a future lifestyle of legal and productive behaviors.

A group home of incarcerated juveniles in a community setting will never be free from the fears that naturally come from those who know little about the program in place. Trust and acceptance come only when neighbors and others in the community reach out to see how the program works, both in its present function and in its promise for the future of its residents. The two open houses hosted by Touchstone since it moved into its Olympia location and its standing open-door policy for visitors reflect Touchstone's desire to be known by the community and to be respected as a vital contribution to the community and to the lives of the young men in its care. And the support offered by those who have visited has been appreciated and extremely encouraging.

While living at Touchstone, residents are monitored in a work-release type situation. However, the methods of ensuring accountability are extremely detailed and systematic. Staff know where residents are at all times. To effect this needed accountability, school and employment supervisors are given direct instructions concerning the parameters of activity permitted for each student or employee. At all times, residents must adhere to the specific directions explicitly state on their school/employment contracts. Frequent random checks are made by Touchstone staff to verify residents' adherence to the provisions of their involvement in the community. And lack of compliance puts the resident at risk of being returned to an institution.

Not one resident has ever been involved in an incident in our community that would suggest that he might pose a risk to any property or person. Many procedures are in place to ensure the safety of the community.

The community reaches out to Touchstone, and in turn the residents of the group home seek to return the favor. At various times, residents can be seen preparing sandwiches to help Bread Basket Ministries, supporting a needy family as part of the "Adopt-A-Family at Christmastime" program, working in neighbors' yards, doing community service, and helping in church projects.

While at Touchstone, each resident is required to receive treatment specifically designed to meet his needs. Although anger management, chemical dependency instruction, and life skills are among the many treatment emphases, the two main involvements of the residents are school and employment.

Even though the residents have attended a number of local schools, including SPSCC, most of them attend Tumwater High School, where Touchstone has had a long-standing strong relationship based on mutual respect. At THS, Touchstone residents are welcomed by a caring and responsive staff, the primary reason that Touchstone has been reluctant to withdraw its residents from that district. THS has provided residents with a place to learn in an accountability-based academic environment and has given them an opportunity to become involved in sports and other school activities. Grade point averages have been more than respectable, and other successes abound. One of Touchstone's long-term residents was voted as Tumwater High School's Social Studies Student of the Month and as New Market Vocational Skills Center's Most Employable of the Quarter in his law enforcement class. And not to be outdone, several of the residents took up the athlete's mantle, excelling in football, wrestling, golf, tennis, track, baseball, and basketball. One resident was started on the illustrious Tumwater football team and made 2nd Team All-Conference. And of course, what could be more spectacular than having one of Touchstone's own being elected Tumwater High's Homecoming King.

Residents who are not involved in school must work toward getting their GED's. Those who have complete their education work full-time in a number of capacities throughout the community. Local businesses and the State have been very helpful in putting Touchstone residents to work. While located in the area, Touchstone has had four hair stylists, many dishwashers and fast food workers, clerks, and a number involved in landscaping, automotive maintenance, tree nursery work, and similar endeavors.

The many community members who have become involved in Touchstone's program, either in a major capacity or in some incidental way, have found their contact with the residents and staff to be mutually beneficial. Even as they give their time and talents to help out, they have experienced the pleasure of knowing that they are playing a vital role in the lives of Touchstone residents. Part of the growth of the young men who are cared for at Touchstone occurs as the result of residents' seeing good role models in the community, being touched by kindness and generosity, and by recognizing in others the value of family and community commitment.

Lives are changed as residents respond to the undergirding strength of the Touchstone program: Accountability, Responsibility, and Caring. Residents operate in an environment that holds them accountable for their own behavior and for appropriate interaction with others. They are also held responsible for personal growth, particularly as they afforded the opportunity to attend school and work, the two life-ingredients that when missing add greatly to the chances of released residents' reoffending. It is not uncommon for Touchstone residents to get "hooked" into the school scene for the first time in many years. How refreshing it is to hear comments such as, "I'm so excited about starting my new classes. And I've never felt like this before." This unsolicited statement is quite a compliment to Touchstone's program and the local schools who open their arms to those who are in the process of becoming productive members of society. Even as staff delights in the glowing reports that residents receive from their employers, so too do residents grow in self-confidence and in the realization that their lives can amount to something, both to them and their communities. And equally important is the ever-present sense of caring that pervades the smooth operation of the program, as staff provides models of loving respect for the residents and then in return experience the growth of trust and respect fostered in young lives.

The capstone of success comes in letters and phone calls from former residents and their families. Words of encouragement flow back as former gang members have donned the clothes of the worker, as gang affiliation has been rejected, as families have been reunited, and as new families have been started on the footing of commitment to wholesome values and community integration.

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(Libros, continued)

standard for employers – one for corporate bad-boys like Nike, and another, more lenient, standard for so-called progressives like himself.

Shapiro must be held accountable by this community for his union-busting activities. Although the appropriate relationship between a revolutionary working class and the petite-bourgeoisie has long been a hot topic of debate in left circles, the actions of an employer like Shapiro leave little room for doubt about the efficacy of such a strategic alliance. Like Alexander Cockburn, who argued in the Eighties that anyone criticizing the Sandinista regime was effectively giving material aide to Reagan's *Contras*, Shapiro would like us to believe that his financial support for progressive causes renders him immune from criticism.

This author would argue the opposite. I believe that community involvement carries with it a *higher* standard of behavior, not a lower one. If those who claim to be a part of our movement can't abide by the very principles that give that movement meaning, we will swiftly find those principles corrupted beyond worth. We mustn't simply look the other way when someone like Shapiro behaves reprehensibly, just because he hangs Sandinista posters around his warehouse. It's safe to assume that Sandino himself would have supported the workers' right to organize at Libros, even if Shapiro doesn't. *Hasta la victoria!*

To join a union with low dues, real rank-and-file democracy, and no bureaucrats, contact the Olympia Wobblies at Box 2775, Olympia, WA 98507.

(Act III, continued)

who lives across the street from the wetland? (2) Creation of more traffic - although Act III claims to be encouraging alternative modes of transportation via bus or bike it seems that a 702-spaced parking lot does not reflect such a claim. Furthermore, why encourage biking when the access roads to the proposed site (Harrison and Black Lake) are not only dangerously over-trafficked but do NOT even have bike lanes?; (3) Corporate greed - since Act III is a chain corporation that means they are not local and that means that the money we spend on Act III will not filter back into the local economy but goes elsewhere. This limits and stifles our participation in our own community by keeping us powerless? (4) Community need - isn't there already an Act III cinema in Capital Mall which is just across the street from the proposed site - why not work with what is already there? (5) Exploration of options - there are other options. Ones that will benefit the people of our community and the health of our environment. Why not wetland preservation? Native plant restoration? A park? Why not all three?

The next step is the examiner's meeting which will be held on April 8th at 3pm. The place of meeting is the first floor Training Room of the Eastside Fire Station which is situated between 4th Ave, and State St. This meeting is open to the public and an important next step towards construction. Show up and network with other community members who oppose Act III's plans - it's not too late to let your voice be heard! Please call the Community Planning and Development Dept. at 753-8314 for more information and to voice your opinion. Please call or write Tim Reed of Act III at (503) 221-0213; 919 SW Taylor St., Suite 900, Portland, OR, 97205 and let Act III know that Olympia puts community need over corporate greed.

FLAT RATE INTERNET
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NO TIME RESTRICTIONS
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Olympia Political/Cultural Center
A.K.A. Liberation Cafe

(360) 352-7336 - 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia (above Bulldog News)
LiberationCafe@juno.com and http://members.aol.com/LiberCafe/Pandp.html

April Events at Liberation Cafe

3rd, Friday - 7pm - Musical Concert *with David Rovics*
4th, Saturday - 8pm - Benefit Concert for the Olympia Zine Library.
10th, Friday - 7pm - Mumia Abu-Jamal Update. Speaker and possible video showing on the political prisoner now on death row.
17th, Friday - 7pm - ArtWalk Display: *including a Books To Prisoners display, Olympia Zine Library and RAMP's put yourself in history art.*
24th, Friday - TBA

Weekly Events:

Sun. 3pm: No War in Iraq; Sun. 6pm: Coalition for Human Dignity; Mon. 7pm: free Spanish Class; 1st & 3rd Wed. 7pm: Liberation Cafe meetings; Thurs. 3pm: Books To Prisoners; Thurs. 7pm: Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects meeting; IWW: last Sundays of every month at 5pm.

The Olympia Political Cultural Center (Liberation Cafe) promotes an alternative social and economic system based on meeting human needs, rather than the profit and wealth of a few. We seek to provide information, analysis, entertainment, art, and discussion that is not available from the corporate owned media and institutions.
We welcome your creativity, time, skills, and donations of money and supplies to help us grow. Liberation Cafe is a member-supported non-profit organization. We are able to maintain the space and put on events because of the support of our community. To find out how to get involved, or to schedule meetings/events, please call 352-7336.

The Cafe is not currently wheelchair accessible.

(Smoking, continued)

than prison guards and administrators. Each predicting dire consequences of prisoner violence if smoking were banned. Typical was Florida DOC sergeant S.D. Williams who testified before the Florida legislature "If you take these cigarettes away from them boys, you're going to have officers going to the hospital in large numbers." Williams later admitted he too was a smoker and would resent not being able to smoke on the job.

In Michigan, Mel Grieshaber, a lobbyist for the Michigan Corrections Organization, a guard union, opposed a tobacco ban, saying "Operationally, we think it's a safety issue. We don't need anything more in there to make the prisoners tense." When pressed, Grieshaber admitted no assaults on guards could be tied to tobacco bans.

What makes these protests ring hollow is that these same groups have pushed for or acquiesced to draconian prison policies and laws that have done a lot to make prisoners "tense." Including: elimination of television, drastic cuts in visiting, elimination of personal property, chain gangs, etc.

While the attorney generals focused their lawsuits on Medicaid, the fact remains that state prison employees, a majority of whom smoke, enjoy extensive health care benefits that, like the prisoners, results in the state picking up 100% of the health care tab caused by their smoking habits. All without a peep from the AG's office.

The Upshot

The anointment to sainthood of the AG's who sued the tobacco industry ignores the fact that those same AG's routinely defend the exposure of non smoking prisoners to ETS as well as acquiescing to feeding the nicotine addictions of a captive population. No, like Gregoire said, it's not about money. It's about good soundbites and getting reelected. We'll be seeing a lot of campaign ads using the tobacco press conferences as a backdrop.

In the meantime, prisoners and guards keep smoking, getting sick and having the state pick up the health care tab. What about the thousands who became addicted when they entered a prison system, even as juveniles, that gave them free tobacco? We won't talk about that.

By the way, according to the Seattle Times, 45 states, including Washington, have millions of dollars in state pension funds invested in tobacco stocks, and they plan to keep them since they perform very well. Philip Morris stock went up 31% last year. Rick Steiner, head of an Alaska group seeking state divestment of tobacco stock, summed it up: "The governor and legislators feign this self righteous indignation over smoking, then the state gives the tobacco companies millions of dollars to play with." Too bad no one will say that about the AG's or their clients that each year spend millions of state dollars on tobacco products.

Paul Wright is a Washington state prisoner and co-editor of Prison Legal News; 2400 NW 80th Street #148, Seattle WA 98117. PLN's website address is www.prisonlegalnews.org. Subscriptions are $15 for prisoners, $20 for individuals, more if you can afford it, and $50 for lawyers and institutions. Prisoner donations of less than $15 will be prorated at $1.25 per issue. Do not send less than $7.50 at a time.

(Doughty, continued)

lous ones. That code of silent thing is really one of the main problems that they have there. These good officers who are there trying to protect the public need to stand up against these other guys.

That might be difficult to do.

Yeah, I'm quite sure it is, especially in a small town like Olympia in which you had this good-old-boy network.

Why do you think Officer Doughty received "officer of the year" right after you had your dealings with him?

I saw it as one way of trying to white wash the guy. When the confrontation did come, they tossed it up thinking that the public is gullible.

To give this man officer of the year, what it said about you?

I thought it was a complete insult. Wurner encouraged that type of activity to give awards like that.

It is ironic that an officer who falsely accused you of domestic violence has been accused of stalking and harassment and has a no-contact order filed against him. What are your thoughts on this?

He was using something that he thought would be an easy target, an easy tool to use. No one in his right mind condones domestic violence. So when an officer makes an accusation right off the bat, that prejudices the public.

Why do you think he did that? You were accused of burglary, not domestic violence, yet you were arrested for domestic violence, not burglary.

Because the real burglar was himself. He had nothing on me for burglary. My own personal theory was that he had to arrest me for something. Domestic violence is an easy charge to throw down.

Do you think race had anything to do with it?

Of course. He has been well known around town for being a racist.

Do you have any hope for the OPD?

Yes, I do, actually. Because of that incident, I have talked to and have run into quite a few good officers there. I have observed them in action and I would say that the majority of the time they were pretty fair. It's just that I feel that upper management could be improved. OPD could then be an excellent department.

WIP Ad Rep Opening

Works In Progress **seeks an *outgoing* person to sell advertising. This is a paid position, commission to be negotiated.**

For those interested, please contact Wendy at 352-7336 or write to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Letters & Briefs, cont.

Badgdad be favorable to the current regime? DEFINiTELY NOT!

According to *The Johnson Doctrine,* we should get the "U.S. allies—especially the Gulf States—on board"... before deploying forces. "We should take the initiative from the Iraqi government and significantly increase sea and airlift capacity and ...troop readiness." And if the Iraqi government (remember Sadaam does not act alone in a vacuum!) continues to resist U.S./U.N. aims (using never ending "inspections" as the justification for the continuance of sanctions) we should (once again) seek UN backing for a military strike and this time "really mean it." Only one problem with all of this. This is the CURRENT U.S. policy in a nutshell!

And if the Iraqi regime commits another "aggression", it is suggested that we advocate "the rebuilding of the Coalition"...seek a solid consensus in the US and the world community for military action...and get ready to invade, occupy and take over Baghdad. . . just like after WWII in Germany and Japan!???

The U.S. rulers would have us believe that the radical nationalist Baathist regime in Baghdad is comparable to the Hitlerite regime of the 40's. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the U.S. "regime" perpetuates this ahistorical mythology to obscure the reality that IT comes closer to matching the Hitler regime it terms of brutality, fomenting wars, committing mass murder, supporting death squads, overthrowing other governments, etc. (remember Vietnam, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Haiti, Chile and Argentina for starters!) than anything that Sadaam's regime has cooked up to date. Don't believe U.S. lies and propaganda!

The U.S.-inspired U.N. sanctions alone have killed far more innocent Iraqi people in six years than Sadaam Hussein's regime has in its entire existence. The Clinton Administration and the U.N. Security Council are guilty of far worse crimes against humanity than Sadaam's regime. That will be the case as long as sanctions continue!

The Iraqi government (including Sadaam Hussein) as well as the Iraqi people have justifiably resented U.S. and U.N. policies that have left them destitute and dying since the end of the Gulf War. It is not a question of making Sadaam the fall guy but of breaking through the monstrous lies and crimes that the U.S./U.N. policies are fostering in the name of "fighting evil".

Alternatively, our (radicals, civil rights activists, progressives, leftists, humanitarians, independents, etc) policy and actions should seek the unequivocal defeat of U.S. (and U.N.) policy regarding Iraq. End the U.N. sanctions NOW! U.S./British Military Out of Iraq and the Middle East! The real enemies of the American people are based right here at home.

Chris Stegman

Death Row Hunger Strike a Success

by Susan Burnett, International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu Jamal

WAYNESBURG, PA March 18, 1998. It is over!! The hunger strike is over and the prisoners on death row have won.

In a prearranged phone call to his lawyers today on another matter, Mumia Abu Jamal confirmed that the DOC and Superintendent Varner have given in on virtually all the demands of the Death Row Prisoners.

On the thirteenth day after the beginning of the hunger strike on death row in SCI Greene, super-max prison in south-western Pennsylvania, officials announced the reversal of most of the March 5th directive. The men are now eating normally.

On March 5, at 7.45am the death row men experienced a drastic and massive shakedown. They believe that this was a retaliatory move from the DOC to respond to many suits brought by inmates.

Pierre San, Secretary General of Amnesty International, London issued a highly pertinent statement describing the measures as "draconian". This, along with media and public pressure, has helped to make the Department of Corrections back down.

Visits have now been reinstated i.e. back to 2 hr personal visiting including weekends and holidays. (March 5th directive allowed 1 hr and no weekend or holiday visiting.) Commissary items have now been restored. Property: this appears to be still in the negotiation stages, but will not be so severe a deprivation as the March 5th directive. Many men have been able to re-assign their property and re-claim items slated for destruction. Clothing: The brown inmate clothing may be reinstated, instead of the coarse pin stripe jumpsuit.

Superintendent Varner is expecting a final directive by Friday from the head office DOC, Camp Hill. While visiting prisoners on death row and involved in the hunger strike members of the Bruderhof community were approached by Superintendent Varner himself and he announced that the strike was over and all the issues had been settled.

Come hear an update on Friday, April 10th in Liberation Cafe at 7pm. Also there will be video showing.

PFLAG Sunday Meeting

"Family and Holidays"
Sunday, April 12th at 2pm

Holidays are supposed to be wonderful, right? They can be a pressure cooker for many families, and can be especially tough for ones with gay and lesbian family members and their partners. Penny Merrell will lead a look at this.

African American Museum

April 4 - "Builders of a New Nation" The opening of the Woolworth Lunch Counter Exhibit. Thirty year commemoration of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Half price admission day.

April 11 - "Steppin On Up" The many styles of African American Dancing

April 18 - "Our Story, Your Story" African American Storytelling and Geneology Workshop

April 25 - "The Life and Times of MLK" Told through songs.

The African American Museum is open 10am - 5pm Wednesday through Saturday. The Museum is open Sunday through Tuesday by reservation only. Admission is $3.25 for ages four and older. Group rates and seniors are $2.75. All workshops and programs are free with paid admission. The Museum is located at 925 Court C in Tacoma. For more info (253)274-1278.

Empowering Grassroots Activists

Sunday, April 19th from 3-5:30pm
Thurston County Courthouse Building1, Room 152

Glen Anderson of the Fellowship Of Reconciliation, will facilitate several parts of a fast-moving workshop to provide fresh appraches to grassroots organizing, and to stimulate and encourage local activists. The workshop is free and open to experienced organizers and novices alike. If possible, call 491-9093 by April 11 to pre-register, because activities and resources will depend on the number of participants.

Universal Health Care

Health Care is a right, not a privilege!

The Thurston Chapter of the Washington Single Payer Action Network (WA-SPAN) will conduct their monthly informational meeting at **Group Health (Lilly Road, Lacey) in Conference Room C on Tuesday, April 21 at 7pm**.

For more info call Sandy at 956-1136.

Co-Op's Diversity Forums

Wednesday, April 22 - video showing of "The Color of Fear" followed by discussion. Refreshments served. 6-9pm place:TBA. Call the Oly Food Co-op.

Tuesday, May 26 - Discussion around Gay & Lesbian issues. Refreshments served. 6-9pm place:Olympia Timberland Library. Call the Oly Food Co-op.

Campaign to Repeal the Anarchy & Sabotage Statute

RCW 9.05, Washington's "anarchy and sabotage" statute, makes outlaws out of all of us. Its restrictions on free speech and public assembly are blatantly unconstitutional. Originally written in 1917 to suppress the Industrial Workers of the World, the law sent hundreds of union members to prison in the twenties. Yet this law is still on the books and was used just last year to convict six non-violent demonstrators at a logging protest in Longview, WA.

Please join the repeal campaign at these events:

Sunday, April 5 - Next CRASS meeting, 5pm at the Liberation Cafe. Hosted by the Olympia IWW General Defense Committee.

Sunday, April 19 - Final planning meeting before the rally (see below), 5pm at the Liberation Cafe.

Friday, May 1 - Rally to repeal RCW 9.05. Noon on the steps of the Supreme Court, Capital Campus.

Friday, May 1 - Forum at TESC, 8pm in Lecture Hall 5. Sponsored by TESC Masters in Public Administration Graduate Student Association. This event will provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussion of the law and the politics surrounding its passage, enforcement, and repeal. Speakers include: Randy Hayes (President, Rainforest Action Network), Susan Morales (American Indian Movement), Arthur Miller (Underground Journalist & Wobbly), Greg Jackson (Seattle Anarchist), and Stu Sugarman (Civil Rights Attorney).

Emergency Caravan for Peace to Chiapas, Mexico

Thousands of indigenous people in Chiapas live in fear. Since the Mexican Federal Army's offensive against indigenous communities in February 1995, many indigenous communities have been subjected to daily military convoys, helicopter surveillance, random searches and acts of sexual violence by Mexican soldiers. Paramilitary organizations are exacerbating the tensions in Chiapas by violently evicting families from their homes and brutalizing and murdering indigenous people. On December 22, in the community of Acteal, 45 people were massacred by members of a paramilitary group.

As a result of the continuing violence, over 10,000 Indigenous have been forced from their homes. Women and children are suffering from malnutrition and disease due to limited access to food, shelter, potable water and medical attention.

The Emergency Caravan for Peace will deliver nearly 100 tons of urgently needed aid for indigenous refugee communities in Chiapas. The international presence will also send a powerful message to paramilitary organizations and federal soldiers that the indigenous people are not alone.

March 28-April 14 Educational presentations and aid collections through the US.
April 15-18 Travel through Mexico
April 19-26 Aid delivery and educational program in Chiapas

For more information call the Olympia contact for IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Rick Fellows, at 352-8526.

Olympia area activists paint the caravan truck bound for Chiapas.

photo by Mikel Pelly

WORKS IN PROGRESS
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION
FREE
APRIL 1998
■ POLICE: Olympia detective Fred Doughty resigns after a letter advises him that he will be fired.
Doughty
The woman accused Doughty of stalking and harassing her, but that wasn't why Doughty faced termination, Nelson said.
Doughty, who is married, was ousted for neglecting his job by meeting with the woman "many, many" times while he was on duty at her Olympia business and her home in the past year, Nelson said.
3/24/98 Brea, CA
Officers accused of pushing boy into undercover work during which he was tortured and strangled and shot friend raped and shot
1/31/98 McMinnville, OR
Police strip-search thirty 12- and 13-year-old girls
1/24/98 Mercer Island, WA
Policeman Smith pleads guilty in misconduct sex case
12/14/97 Spokane, WA
Jury convicts sheriff's deputy DiBartolo for wife's murder
11/14/97 Portland, OR
Off-duty Officer Drum accused in road rage incident
11/6/97 Las Vegas, NV
DARE officer Binion resigns after failing a test for marijuana
11/6/97 Anderson, IN
30 officers suspended for attending a party where two strippers performed a sex act
8/19/97 New York, NY
Officers Wicse and Bruder were arrested for brutality against Abner Louima
7/2/97 Kelso, WA
Trooper Moore resigns after investigations into his conduct which included four patrol car wrecks and domestic violence.
7/2/97 Spokane, WA
City settles lawsuit stemming from police raids on homes, which the Supreme Court ruled illegal and involved outrageous police conduct
7/97 Olympia, WA
Trooper Reandeau accused of drunken driving, pleads guilty to negligent driving
5/10/97 Seattle, WA
Officer Erdt pleaded guilty to sex crimes against stepdaughter
11/17/96 Seattle, WA
Officer Bachmeier charged with aggravated murder and arson scam
11/8/96 Wilkeson, WA
Officer Jackman gets seven years and ten months for two counts of child rape
10/19/96 Houma, LA
After a 24-hour standoff in a bank, Deputy Louviere is charged with murder, kidnapping, rape and battery
9/13/96 Indianapolis, IN
Chief Christ resigns and 16 officers implicated in a drunken, brawling spree were reassigned
7/3/96 Medford, OR
Police accused of yelling racial slurs while beating a Hispanic man
4/26/96 Seattle, WA
Trooper Jackstadt's conduct when he delayed couple's abortion was ruled unethical
the bad apple
the bad cop
the bad cop
the bad apple

OPD's Doughty Quits In Disgrace & Action Needed to Stop Act III Cinemas

4 Along the Color Line
South Africa Now

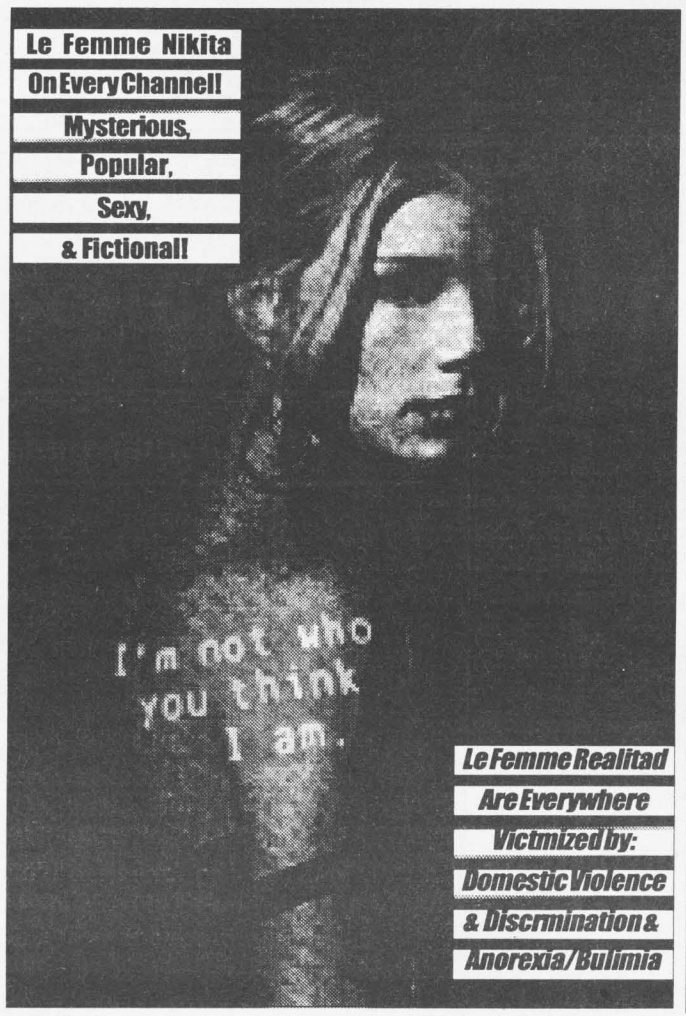
8 IWW-Libros Talks Stalled

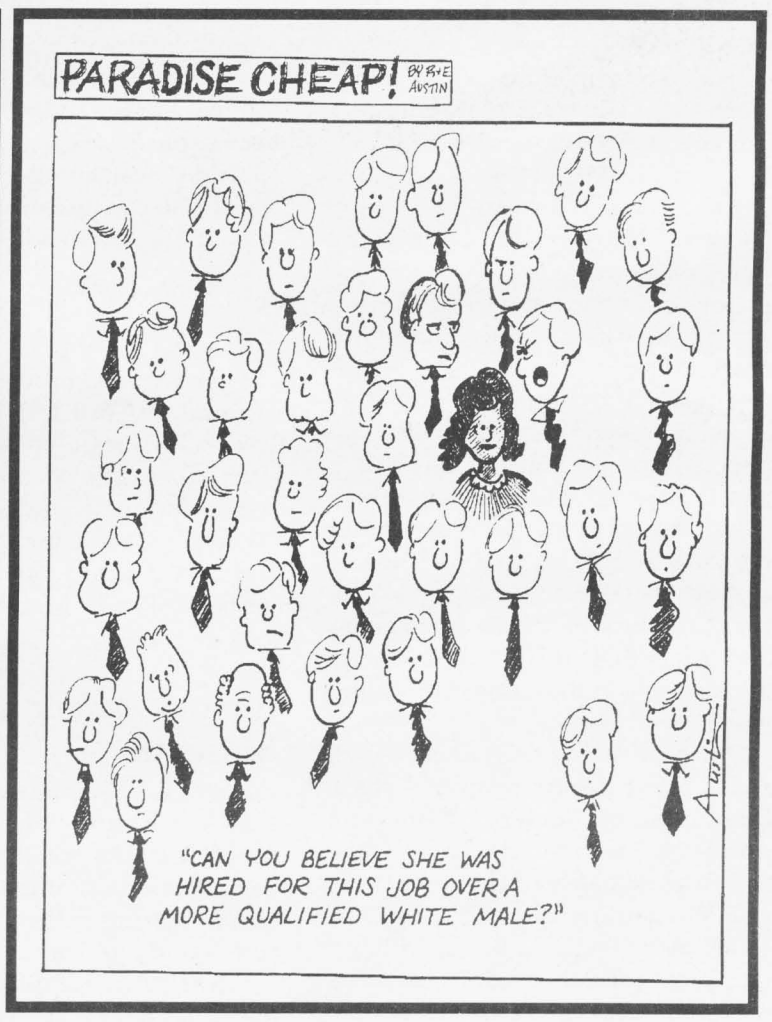
10-11 NO!200 Poster (with color!)

12-13 MAI-Not & NIKE

14 Smoking In Prisons

15 Celling of America





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